

Biography: Dr. Christian Bester

Hailed by the Los Angeles Times as “Impressive,” South African baritone, **Dr. CHRISTIAN BESTER**, made his professional debut as Schaunard in *La Bohème* for Pro Musica Theater in South Africa and his European debut as Zaremba in *Polin Blut* at the Americke Jaro Festival in the Czech Republic. Additional critically acclaimed roles include Max Detweiler (Tulsa Opera), Pa Zengner (Painted Sky Opera), Major General, Gianni Schicchi, Don Giovanni, Count Almaviva, Belcore, Enrico, Marcello, Germont, Aeneas, Guglielmo, Escamillo, Prince Moritz Popolescu, Basil (Der Graf von Luxemburg), and Dr. Malatesta. Orchestral engagements include the Fort Worth Symphony, KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra, Manitowoc Symphony, Lone Star Wind Orchestra, Allen Philharmonic, and Dallas Symphony Orchestra League. As a Professional Fellow, Dr. Bester participated in Songfest, one of the United States of America’s premier festivals dedicated solely to art songs, working with titans in the art song field, such as Graham Johnson, Libby Larson, and Martin Katz. His research interests focus on marginalized social groups and exposing Afrikaans Art Song Literature to a wider audience. Several peer-reviewed articles have been published in the NATS Journal of Singing and the Journal of the Musical Arts in Africa. *Afrikaans Art Song Literature: Translation and Pronunciation Guide*, co-authored with Dr. Forbay, was published by Oxford University Press in 2025. Dr. Bester served as the Artistic Director for Voces Intimae: The Art of Song, a nonprofit organization that brings Art Songs to the Dallas/Fort Worth community. He is a sought-after recitalist, presenter, and clinician with regular presentations, performances, and masterclasses throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, and South Africa. Dr. Bester currently serves as Assistant Professor of Voice at the Greenwood School of Music at Oklahoma State University.