



Kenneth Overton Baritone

2326 Powell Ave.
Bronx, NY 10462
M 212.729.8312
Divoklo@aol.com

BIO

Baritone Kenneth Overton has consistently received accolades for his rich gleaming voice and his many layered, powerful interpretations. In March of 2007, Mr. Overton performed the complex role of Stephen Kumalo in *Lost in the Stars* with Skylark Opera. He also made his debut this spring with Stadttheater Klagenfurt (Austria) as Jake (Porgy and Bess). In the summer of 2007 Kenneth made his role debut as Marcello (*La Boheme*) with the Missouri Symphony Society, and a debut with American Opera Projects, portraying the role of Afro-American Baseball Star Josh Gibson in (*The Summer King*).

The 2007-2008 season holds many debuts for Mr. Overton including Symphonic Engagements with the Riverside Symphonia (Holiday/Pops), and The Phoenix Symphony Orchestra (*Messiah*). Kenneth also made a role and company debut with Boheme Opera (New Jersey) as Germont (*La Traviata*) his first venture into the Verdi Repertoire.

This winter Kenneth will also resume touring with The American Spiritual Ensemble and will begin recording his debut CD of Negro Spirituals. Later in the season Mr. Overton makes his hometown debut (Philadelphia) with Center City Opera as Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*). He recently toured the British Isles as Porgy in Living Arts' *Porgy and Bess* and, in the same role, opened Opera Memphis' 51st season. He recently sang his first Escamillo (*Carmen*) with Missouri Symphony Society, and well as Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) with Opera Memphis, Ping (*Turandot*) with Sacramento Opera, Bello (*La Fanciulla del West*) with Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, as Bass soloist in Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra, and as the Baritone soloist in Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* with the Oratorio Society of New Jersey.

Mr. Overton is also co-founder of Opera Noire of New York, a performing arts organization created to empower African-American artists to reach their full creative potential in a mutually supportive environment.