

## **RYAN TOWNSEND STRAND REVIEWS**

**“The tenor has the fewest opportunities to shine in Handel’s score, but Strand set the right tone for the afternoon with his pure, flexible tone...” – Chicago Classical Review**

**[Apollo Chorus continues its venerable “Messiah” tradition](#)**

**“...two soloists from the choir, bass Kevin Krasinski and tenor Ryan Townsend Strand, whose timbres complemented each other’s beautifully.” – Chicago Classical Review**

**[Countertenor Mobley proves a light presence in MOB concert](#)**

**“Ryan Townsend Strand displayed a pliant tenor, and the duo played off each other charmingly and blended engagingly in their lilting duets.” – Chicago Classical Review**

**[Kraemer, MOB bring home the venison with engaging “hunt” program](#)**

**“Ryan Townsend Strand displayed an attractive nimble tenor.” – Chicago Classical Review**

**[Music of the Baroque Chorus takes the spotlight at Harris Theater](#)**

**“...those shepherds seemed a little less gratuitous thanks to the beautiful vocalism of tenor [Ryan Townsend Strand](#)” – SF Chronicle**

**[American Bach Soloists unearth a French gem](#)**

**“That speaks to the fact that we try to develop programs that are not just choral concerts but have something to say.” – SF Gate**

**[Men's Choir Notes Other Side of Holiday](#)**

## BIO

**Ryan Townsend Strand, tenor**, is a Minnesota native whose "beautiful vocalism" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) and "pliant tenor" (*Chicago Classical Review*) have afforded him an expanding career as a concert and oratorio soloist. Strand most recently was a featured soloist with the Bach Cantata Vespers performing BWV 48, *Ich elender Mensch, wer wird mich erlösen*. Along with being thrilled to return to Bach Cantata Vespers in River Forest, highlights of the 2022-2023 season include solo performances with countertenor Reginald Mobley & [Music of the Baroque](#) in November, Handel's *Messiah* with [Apollo Chorus](#) and the [Illinois Philharmonic](#) in December, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with [Chicago Choral Artists](#) in March, and performances with [Constellation Men's Ensemble](#) throughout the year.

Strand made his professional Chicago opera debut in [Haymarket Opera Company](#)'s production of Alessandro Scarlatti's *Gli equivoci nel sembiante* (Armindo). In the fall of 2020, he premiered *Acis & Galatea in HD* (Chorus, Acis Cover) with HOC as part of "a sparkling group of singers," (*Hyde Park Herald*). He returned to Haymarket for their production of Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* in September 2022 as Primo Soldato. Other operatic productions include Handel's *Beauty's Truth* (Pleasure) & *Così fan tutte* (Ferrando) with [Transgressive Theater-Opera](#) & [Elmhurst Symphony](#); Mark Adamo's *Little Women* (Laurie), Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Nero), and Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath* (Al Joad) with Northwestern Opera Theater. With [Chicago Opera Theater](#), Strand most recently performed Jake Heggie's *Moby Dick* and has sung other chorus roles in productions of Philip Glass' *The Perfect American*, Mozart's *Lucio Silla*, and Bloch's *Macbeth*. He would have made his onstage debut at [Lyric Opera of Chicago](#) in Richard Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* prior to COVID-19.

Strand has sung with the Grammy award-winning contemporary vocal ensemble [The Crossing](#) in Philadelphia under the direction of Donald Nally. Locally, he performs with the [Chicago Symphony Chorus](#), [Music of the Baroque](#), [Stare at the Sun](#), Bella Voce, William Ferris Chorale, and the [Grant Park Festival Chorus](#). Strand is a founding member and executive director of Constellation Men's Ensemble in Chicago.

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqFSkTqloRt0wUc6tkjQ40Q>

<https://soundcloud.com/ryantownsend18>

<https://vimeo.com/ryantownsendstrand>

