

ELEM ELEY BARITONE

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American baritone **Elem Eley** enjoys a remarkably varied career, from opera, oratorio and recital to premières of contemporary vocal music. His four latest CDs were released in 2008-2009, two of them on Albany Records - a solo album, *Drifts and Shadows: American Song for the New Millennium* (JJ Penna, pianist), and a featured group of *Three Antarctica Songs* by Laurie Altman on Mr. Altman's new CD, entitled *On Course*. In the *American Record Guide* (Jan/Feb 2009), critic Stephen Estep reviewed *Drifts and Shadows*, stating, "Eley's voice is warm and clean. He is definitely one of the best singers of English I've ever heard...Buy this record." *Fanfare* opines, "This is a miraculous compilation of gems...a Want List candidate." Mr. Eley is cast in the première recording of the Hagen/Muldoon opera, *Shining Brow*, released in 2009 by Naxos. Additionally, he is featured on a recording of Steven Sametz's *Dulcis Amor*, with the Princeton Singers and tenor John Aler, recently released by Arsis Recordings.

The current season (2009-2010) features a return to Avery Fisher Hall as soloist in *Messiah* with the Peniel Concert Choir, *Carmina Burana* with the Springfield (MO) Symphony, recitals at Berry College and Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and a performance on the *Joy in Singing* Anniversary Gala at Merkin Concert Hall. In 2008 and 2009, Mr. Eley returned to Lincoln Center with Musica Sacra (Kent Tritle conducting) for *Carmina Burana* and the world première of Alessandro Cadario's *Cantata for Revival*, to the Springfield (MO) Symphony for Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, and to the Oratorio Singers of Westfield for Bach's *Mass in b*. Bach was further represented by Christus in the *St. John Passion* (Princeton Pro Musica), and he sang performances of Handel's *Israel in Egypt* at Lehigh University. 2008 recitals included *Masters of Modern American Art Song II* at Symphony Space in New York City, and a French recital in Princeton.

Other notable engagements included a début with Musica Sacra (the late Richard Westenburg conducting) as soloist in Bach's *Cantata No. 82*, a series of performances led by another legendary choral maestro - Robert Page - singing *Carmina Burana*, the world première of *Vera of Las Vegas* by Daron Hagen and Paul Muldoon; and appearances with the Symphony Orchestras of Charlotte, Kansas City, New Jersey, Sioux City and Springfield, the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall, The Little Orchestra Society at Lincoln Center and the Calvin Oratorio Society. Mr. Eley sang the title role of *Don Giovanni* for his debut at the Operafestival di Roma and has appeared in productions with the Opera Companies of Cincinnati, Hawaii, Shreveport and Syracuse, Athena Grand Opera, the Sylvan Opera Festival, the Center for Contemporary Opera and Musica Europa 2001.

With degrees in voice from Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the native Georgian pursued doctoral study at Indiana University, studying with Margaret Harshaw. Winner of the 1996 *Joy in Singing Award*, Elem Eley is Professor of Voice at Westminster Choir College of Rider University.

*Dated September 2009; please destroy earlier versions.
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