



BYRON JOHNSON, TENOR

Jamaican born tenor, Dr. Byron Johnson is an avid supporter of equity and diversity in the performing arts. Johnson is a member of the newly formed HBCU Intercollegiate Opera Forum, an organization created to provide performing opportunities to minority students in classical music. His research interests include the art songs of Francis Poulenc, Robert Schumann, and the Jamaican art songs by Peter Ashbourne and Noel Dexter, which he frequently presents on lecture recitals.

Some of his operatic performances include Tamino and Monostatos in *Die Zauberflöte*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Elder Gleaton in *Susanna* and Sportin' Life in *Porgy and Bess*. He has performed with several companies including Opera Birmingham, Mississippi Opera, Southern Opera and Musical Theater, and the Rome Festival Opera, Italy. His solo performances in sacred works include Händel's *Messiah*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solenne*, Mozart's *Requiem*, *The Crucifixion* by John Stainer, *Lobgesang* and *Elijah* by Felix Mendelssohn, *Paukenmesse*, and *The Creation*, by Joseph Haydn, *Magnificat* and *Uns ist ein Kind Geboren* by J.S. Bach, the *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint-Saëns, *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and *St. Nicholas* by Benjamin Britten.

A current intern of the Sphinx LEAD Fellowship program from the Sphinx Foundation, Johnson is currently Associate Professor of Music and Chairperson of the Faculty Senate at Alcorn State University in Lorman, Mississippi. He is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (N.A.T.S.) and serves on both the regional and state executive boards as secretary. Byron conducts master classes both in the United States and internationally. He is a co-founder of the "Finding Your Voice Summer Institute" that is held annually at the University of the West Indies, in Kingston, Jamaica. His students are regular participants at state, regional and national voice competitions; several of whom have earned places in young artist programs and summer opera festivals.