KANTTILA MANAGEMENT



ARTIST
DOSSIER

BIOGRAPHY · CV

James Lee

Tenor

Biography

James Lee



South Korean tenor James Lee's repertoire centres on dramatic Italian opera, particularly Puccini and Verdi. Alongside Calaf, Radamès and Don Carlo, he sings Paul in Korngold's *Die tote Stadt*.

Calaf in *Turandot* has featured prominently in recent seasons. In 2025/26, Mr. Lee sang the role at Landestheater Niederbayern and appeared as Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* at Staatstheater Cottbus. He returned to Opera på Skäret in Sweden as Calaf in a new production in summer 2025, following appearances in the role at Theater Magdeburg and in Skopje in 2024/25. His other Calaf engagements include Sofia Opera and Ballet, the Belogradchik Opera Festival, Daegu International Opera Festival, Latvian National Opera and State Opera Stara Zagora.

At the Latvian National Opera in 2023/24, Mr. Lee sang the title role in the Italian five-act version of Verdi's *Don Carlo*, conducted by Frédéric Chaslin and directed by Claus Guth, alongside Radamès in *Aida* and Calaf. In May 2024, he made his role debut as Paul in *Die tote Stadt* with Korea National Opera at the Seoul Arts Center under Lothar Koenigs. His Puccini repertoire also includes Dick Johnson in *La fanciulla del West*, which he first sang at Theater Hagen and subsequently at Opera Hedeland in Denmark, and Des Grieux in *Manon Lescaut*, a role he debuted at the Saaremaa Opera Festival and sang with Fundació Òpera Catalunya in 2024.

As Radamès, Mr. Lee has appeared at the National Theatre in Prague, Cairo Opera House, the Luxor Festival at the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut, the Opera Festival St. Margarethen, the Schwerin Castle Festival, Oper Dortmund and Skopje. He also sang it in Franco Zeffirelli's production for the State Opera of Georgia. Other roles include Don José in *Carmen*, Arrigo in *I vespri siciliani*, Manrico in *Il trovatore*, Riccardo in *Un ballo in maschera*, Cavaradossi in *Tosca* and Samson in *Samson et Dalila*.

Mr. Lee has appeared at opera houses in Graz, Freiburg, Saarbrücken and Linz. Calaf also took him to Daegu Opera House, Seoul Arts Center, the International Istanbul Opera Festival and Teatr Wielki in Łódź under Antoni Wit, where he made his debut as Samson. Earlier Dortmund engagements included Pinkerton, Cavaradossi and Télasco in Spontini's *Fernand Cortez*. His concert work includes Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* with the Würzburger Oratorienchor in 2025, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Vogtland Philharmonie in 2024 and Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* in Schweinfurt.

Mr. Lee studied voice at Yeungnam University in Gyeongsan and the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Düsseldorf. His competition prizes (2011–2013) include First Prize at the Valentin Teodorian competition in Bucharest and First Prize and the Special Prize at the Competizione dell'Opera in Linz.

Curriculum vitae

James Lee

TENOR



NATIONALITY South Korea

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance artist

SELECTED HOUSES AND FESTIVALS

Staatstheater Cottbus · Landestheater Niederbayern · Opera på Skäret · Theater Magdeburg · Macedonian National Theatre · Latvian National Opera · Korea National Opera · Opera Hedeland · Theater Dortmund

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Pinkerton	Madama Butterfly *Puccini*	Staatstheater Cottbus	2026 2025
Calaf	Turandot *Puccini*	Landestheater Niederbayern	2026 2025
Calaf	Turandot *Puccini*	Opera på Skäret	2025
Calaf	Turandot *Puccini*	Theater Magdeburg	2025 2024
Calaf	Turandot *Puccini*	Macedonian National Theatre, Skopje	2025 2024
Radamès	Aida *Verdi*	Macedonian National Theatre, Skopje	2025 2024
Calaf	Turandot *Puccini*	Sofia Opera and Ballet	2025– 2023
Dick Johnson / Ramerrez	La fanciulla del West *Puccini*	Opera Hedeland	2024

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Paul	Die tote Stadt *Korngold*	Korea National Opera, Seoul Arts Center	2024
Calaf	Turandot *Puccini*	State Opera Stara Zagora	2024
Des Grieux	Manon Lescaut *Puccini*	Fundació Òpera Catalunya	2024
Don Carlo	Don Carlo *Verdi*	Latvian National Opera	2024 2023
Radamès	Aida *Verdi*	Latvian National Opera	2024 2023
Calaf	Turandot *Puccini*	Latvian National Opera	2024 2023
Dick Johnson	La fanciulla del West *Puccini*	Theater Hagen	2023 2022
Cavaradossi	Tosca *Puccini*	Theater Dortmund	2022
Pinkerton	Madama Butterfly *Puccini*	Theater Dortmund	2020 2019

In Concert

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	VENUE / ENSEMBLE	YEAR
Tenor soloist	Messa da Requiem *Verdi*	Oratorienchor Würzburg	2025
Tenor soloist	Puccini gala *Puccini*	Bucharest Opera Festival	2024
Tenor soloist	Symphony No. 9 *Beethoven*	Vogtland Philharmonie Greiz/Reichenbach	2024

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education & distinctions

Vocal studies
Yeungnam University, Gyeongsan

Vocal studies
Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf

Awards & competitions

2011–2013	Masters of Lyrical Art – Valentin Teodorian: First Prize Bucharest
2011–2013	Competizione dell'Opera: First Prize; Special Prize Linz