

Baritone Rahzé Sinclair (*né* Cheatham), described as having the ability to “move to tears”, is praised as a “wonderfully sensitive” artist with “crystalline diction” and a strong foundation in music, theatre art, and dance applications.

Armed with the perspective of the intersection of mis- and underrepresented communities, Rahzé seeks to break through an otherwise homogenous music scene. In addition to performing original works, Rahzé enjoys learning and performing works from 1900-forward, by little-known and unknown composers and poets, especially artists of color and LGBTQ-identified artists. They inhabit a liminal space only accessible through a lifetime of otherization, yet extend a bridge to invite others to that space. The ticket for admission, an open mind; the reward, a journey of exploration, growth, and healing.

More than offer beautiful music, Rahzé seeks to dismantle institutional structures that prohibit artistic discovery in underserved communities; to examine the ways in which music and art are the fundamental materials necessary for crafting a thriving self; and to inspire the systemic and systematic changes that create and maintain measures that better serve those communities.

THIS 2024-25 SEASON, Rahzé joins *Der Gestanke* in the concert premiere of *The Little Red Hen* by Elena Doria Winell. Later, they will make their Telltale Opera Theatre debut in the organization's *Sandbox Showcase*, premiering work by Meg Huskin. Then, Rahzé will uplift the work of Bethany Younge and Kayleigh Butcher on the Der Gestanke *Duos II* concert in New York. Shortly thereafter, they will perform as a soloist on the Asylum Seekers Housing Network and Reservoir Hill House of Peace fundraising and benefit concert. They will also serve as a Resident Artist for *Project Poetic Justice*, a special two-part concert that connects professional musicians and composers with incarcerated young people. Finally, later this season, Rahzé will serve as vocal director for the Baltimore School for the Arts production of *Godspell* by Stephen Schwartz, and music director for the Joint BSA x Showdown Theatre Academy production of *STRING* by Adam Gwon (book, Sarah Hammond) in London.

MOST RECENTLY, Rahzé performed on a recital series paying homage to the works of Charles Ives, Arnold Schoenberg, and their 20th- and 21st-century offshoots at Baltimore's *An die Musik Live!* Previously, they programmed and performed in *Queer, "I"*, a feature-length recital exploring queerness as both liminal space and destination. Earlier, they made their Community Concerts at Second recital debut alongside members of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, they were a featured soloist in *gallery of life*, an evening of staged art songs in honor of environmental sustainability.

OTHER NOTABLE PROJECTS include a formal address to the Peabody Conservatory graduating Class of 2024 and soloist engagement for the Johns Hopkins University School-Wide Commencement. They also delivered a live narration of Philip Glass's memoir, *Music Without Words* in dialogue with music from his *Piano Etudes*, performed by pianist Vicky Chow at the George Peabody Library.

Additionally, at the behest of the Kahilu Theatre of Hawai'i, Rahzé made their role debut as Angel Dumott Schunard in *RENT* by Jonathan Larson. Other stage appearances include the premiere of several new chamber opera works, including *The Chisel* (Galatea) by Andrew Faulkenberry and *Take Me Down* (Clark) by Michael Mills, and a role debut as Bartley in *Riders to the Sea* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Solo and collaborative concert engagements include the *Activating the Renaissance* Recital at the Walters Art Museum; their work as a soloist in the Johns Hopkins University Black Heritage Celebration, *The Resiliency of Black Sound and Rhythm*; and the *Recital and Festival Evensong of Frederick Douglass* at St. David's Episcopal Church, where they also served as the 2022-23 Composer-in-Residence, premiering several new choral works.

OTHER PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS include, in conjunction with San Francisco's Transgender District, Rahzé's Opera Parallèle debut in *EXPANSIVE*, a recital showcase of transgender and agender classical artists. Additionally, they made their Kahilu Theatre debut reprising the role of Hannah before in *As One* during the 2022 Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival. Other season engagements include a recital featuring the music of Jake Heggie and Jeremy Earnest as a soloist and recipient of the Baltimore Motor House D.A.P. grant; their Lowell Chamber Orchestra debut for the landmark 49th performance of *As One* by Laura Kaminsky, with libretto by Kimberly Reed and Mark Campbell; and a performance featuring the work of Shawn Okpebholo, Leonard Bernstein, and Julius Eastman for the 2021 CAAPA Emerging Artist Recital. Finally, Rahzé moderated *As One: The Work Continues...*, a panel discussion reflecting on transgender and nonbinary visibility in the arts before returning to the Rise Bmore stage to deliver the words of bell hooks.

PAST ROLES include Angel Dumott Schunard (*RENT*), Galatea (*The Chisel*), Clark (*Take Me Down*), Hannah before (*As One*), Betto di Signa (*Gianni Schicchi*), L'Aubergiste (*Chérubin*), Blues Soloist/Street Singer (*MASS*, Leonard Bernstein) Bob (*Old Maid and the Thief*), Bernardo (*Westside Story*), Sam, (*Trouble in Tahiti*); Dr. Pangloss, (*Candide*); and Figaro, (*Le nozze di Figaro*). →For five years, Rahzé served as a Section Leader and soloist for the Sanctuary Choir of First and Franklin Presbyterian Church. They also acted as the managing Concert Coordinator for the *Summit Concert Series* at Erickson Living Oak Crest Village during the 2021-2024 seasons.

AS AN ARTS EDUCATOR, they host a private voice studio of beginner, intermediate, and advanced students across multiple genres. Additionally, Mx. Sinclair maintains faculty positions at the Baltimore School for the Arts within the Music and Theatre departments. Through a holistic approach to musical and artistic development, Rahzé not only cultivates technical proficiency but also fosters a deep understanding of the interconnectedness between music, the body, expressive communication, and global community. Rahzé's students have appeared in concert, opera, and musical theatre productions locally and nationally, including at Baltimore's Center Stage, Hippodrome Theatre, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage, the Lyric Baltimore, Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, M&T Bank Exchange at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center, and more. Matriculating high school students have been accepted into numerous summer festivals, such as the Berklee College of Music Aspire: Five-Week Music Performance Intensive, Washington National Opera Institute, Maryland Opera Camp, and college/conservatory voice programs at AMDA College of Performing Arts (Los Angeles), the American Musical the Performing Arts and Dramatic Academy (New York) Cal Arts, New York University, and Pace University.

As a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda, Epsilon Omicron Chapter, Rahzé currently holds a Master of Music, Vocal Performance and Pedagogy, a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, and a Minor in Music Theory from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where they studied with American baritone William Sharp.

250 WORD

Baritone Rahzé Sinclair (*né* Cheatham) is praised as a “wonderfully sensitive” performer with “crystalline diction” and the ability to “move to tears.” A contemporary classical music artist in both concert and operatic repertoire, notable roles include Bartley (*Riders to the Sea*), Angel Dumott Schunard (*RENT*), Galatea (*The Chisel*), Clark (*Take Me Down*), Hannah before (*As One*), Brennan (*Mallory*) Blues Soloist/Street Singer (*MASS*), Betto di Signa (*Gianni Schicchi*), L’Aubergiste (*Chérubin*), Bob (*Old Maid and the Thief*), Bernardo (*Westside Story*), Sam, (*Trouble in Tahiti*); Dr. Pangloss, (*Candide*). For five years, Rahzé served as a Section Leader and soloist for the Sanctuary Choir of First and Franklin Presbyterian Church. Rahzé is also a member of the avant-garde contemporary ensemble *Der Gestanke*, a musical collective that seeks to distort and reinvent the relationship between performer, composer, and audience member by exploring texture at the forefront of musical structure and expression. While hosting a private voice studio of students across multiple genres, they currently maintain faculty positions at the Baltimore School for the Arts where they aim to cultivate technical proficiency and foster an understanding of the interconnectedness between music, the body, expressive communication, and global community. During the 2022-23 season, they maintained a composition residency at St. David’s Episcopal Church. As a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda, Epsilon Omicron Chapter, Rahzé holds a MM, Vocal Performance and Pedagogy; BM, Vocal Performance; and a Minor in Music Theory from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where they studied with baritone William Sharp.

150 WORD

Holding degrees from the Peabody Conservatory, baritone Rahzé Sinclair (*né* Cheatham) is praised as a “wonderfully sensitive” performer with “crystalline diction” and the ability to “move to tears”. A new and contemporary classical music artist in both concert and operatic repertoire, they have been featured in numerous projects, including musicals, opera scenes, oratorios, concerts, workshops, gallery exhibitions, and artist residencies. While hosting a voice studio of beginner, intermediate, and advanced students across multiple genres, they currently maintain faculty positions at the Baltimore School for the Arts. During the 2022-23 season they served as St. David’s Episcopal Church Composer-in-Residence. Rahzé is also a member of the avant-garde contemporary ensemble *Der Gestanke*, a musical collective that seeks to distort and reinvent the relationship between performer, composer, and audience member by exploring texture at the forefront of musical structure and expression.



Photography by Audrey Gatewood, Imbie Tamba

PRESS



Big Island Music



PRESENT



FEATURING BREANNA SINCLAIRÉ – SOPRANO, RAHZÉ CHEATHAM – BARITONE & REUBEN ZELLMAN – COUNTERTENOR
WITH HOST AFRIKA AMERICA.

Opera Parallèle ↗



American Opera Project ↗



SUBSCRIBE TO
THE ADVOCATE

ADVOCATE

TRENDING

Politics

Monkeypox

Voices

Culture

Photography

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ► MUSIC

A Gender-Expansive Opera Makes History on Trans Day of Remembrance



From left: Tona Brown photographed by Sallie Williams; Rahzé Cheatham photographed by Audrey Gatewood

The trans-themed opera *As One* will be performed by an exclusively trans and nonbinary cast.

BY TRUDY RING
NOVEMBER 19 2021 1:05 PM EST

Advocate ↗