

Baritone **Henri Tikkanen** got his Bachelor of Music in 2017 from Sibelius Academy. In fall 2019 he graduates the academy's opera programme as Master of Music. During his time in Sibelius Academy Tikkanen studied with Hannu Niemelä and Kristjan Mõisnik. He has also had the privilege to gain insight from singers and coaches such as professor Dorothy Irving, Konrad Jarnot and Jeffrey Goldberg.

Feeling at home on stage Tikkanen finds opera fascinating with its grand possibilities of moving the listener. Even so Tikkanen has a burning passion for Lieder. The bare intimacy of a duo recital can at best reach and even overtake the emotional heights created by opera.

Tikkanen's recent opera productions include the UK premiere of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* with Joyce DiDonato (London 2018) as Prison Guard 1 and Benjamin Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* (Helsinki 2018) as Tarquinius. As an experienced interpreter also in sacred music, Tikkanen has performed in works such as Mendelssohn's *Elijah* oratorio (2016) and Bach's *St John passion* (2015). Collaboration with orchestras include concerts with Hämeenlinna, Kuopio and Oulu symphonies.