

Pioneer Hall of Fame: Samuel J. Mungo, class of 1981

After graduating from Illinois State University in 1986, Sam Mungo was accepted into the Boston Conservatory where he received an Artist's Diploma in 1989. Mungo continued his training under the auspices of the legendary opera coach and conductor John Moriarty. He received a scholarship to attend the New England Conservatory where he graduated cum laude with a Master's in Music in 1991. Several apprenticeships followed and then he moved to New York to pursue his operatic career.

Mungo quickly found himself performing in operas and concerts all over the country. His roles have included Mercutio in Romeo and Juliette, Escamillo in Carmen, Marcello in La Bohme, Junius in The Rape of Lucretia, Ping in Turandot, Maximillian in Candide, and The Pirate King in Pirates of Penzance. His favorite roles include the title role in Mozart's Don Giovanni, Danilo in The Merry Widow, and Eisenstein in Die Fledermaus.

Carnegie Hall in New York, Jordan Hall and Symphony Hall in Boston, and El Auditorio di San Ursula in Lima, Peru have been stages to Mungo. In 2002, he was thrilled to be asked to sing in the Cultural Olympiad at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City where he joined fellow artists Itzhak Perlman and Savion Glover.

Mungo's talent also extends to teaching, directing, and producing. He spent eight years as a voice instructor at the New York's famed Actor's Studio at the New School University and four years on the voice faculty at New York University. He is currently finishing his doctorate at the University of Colorado, where he directed Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore. He served as the associate producer for Colorado University's Opera in the summer repertory season.