

Peter Gillis
Biography (April, 2026)

A voice the Ottawa Citizen has called “golden,” Canadian tenor Peter Gillis has performed extensively in the U.S., Canada and abroad. Praise from the New York Times for his Ottavio at a Juilliard Opera Center production of Don Giovanni led to his European debut at the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy. Regular festival engagements followed, often under the direction of Gian Carlo Menotti.

In the United States he has appeared in many regional venues including Opera New England, the Opera Orchestra of New York, Milwaukee’s Skylight Opera Theater, and the Spoleto U.S.A. Festival in Charleston, S.C. His Kennedy Center debut was with the Washington Opera as Brighella in Ariadne Auf Naxos.

Mr. Gillis made his Carnegie Hall debut in Mozart’s Vesperae Solennes de Confessore, and returned to Carnegie Hall to solo in Bach’s Magnificat and Mozart’s Regina Coeli.

Canadian performances have included several Celtic Colours International Festival appearances, concerts with Symphony Nova Scotia, and a tour of Canada with folk luminary Rita MacNeil. He debuted as Tom Rakewell in Opera Nova Scotia’s The Rake’s Progress.

Peter Gillis holds both the Doctor of Musical Arts degree and Postgraduate Diploma from the Juilliard School, a Master of Music (With Distinction) from Indiana University at Bloomington, and a Bachelor of Music from Westminster Choir College. A member of the voice faculty in the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, he has taught at universities throughout the Metro New York area and maintains a private studio in Great Notch, NJ. His students have appeared in leading roles on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in National Tours, and in regional opera.

Adjudicating activities have included the Metropolitan Opera Guild Curtain Call Awards, the Nova Scotia Music Festival, the New Glasgow Music Festival, the New York Singing Teachers Association’s Young Professional Competition, and the Master Teachers series at Dalhousie University and Acadia University.