



JACQUES ARSENAULT TENOR

BIOGRAPHY

As Freddy in *Bandits in the Valley* with Tapestry Opera –

"Jacques Arsenault's Freddy is a standout performance in itself, an impressive combination of powerful singing, solid accordion chops... and heartfelt acting."

Jenna Simeonov, Schmopera.com

As Lui in *La Voix Humaine* with Against the Grain Theatre –

"Arsenault is blessed with a warm, rich, multi-hued tenor that he uses carefully to shade every phrase that Lui utters from rage at party line eavesdroppers to the tenderness of fond memories of his past with Monsieur to desperation and self-abasement. Because of Arsenault's fine acting and extraordinarily sensitive singing, this is the first time I felt caught up in the main character's agony and felt along with him every change of emotion he expressed."

Christopher Hoile, Stage Door

Acadian tenor Jacques Arsenault began his musical career studying accordion while growing up on Prince Edward Island, before discovering his vocal talents. Since receiving his Master of Music from the University of Alberta, Jacques has performed throughout Canada in a wide range of repertoire from classical and contemporary opera to musical theatre. In 2015, Jacques made his operatic debut in Edmonton Opera's *The Merry Widow* and is delighted to return this season as **Remendado** in *Carmen*.

In 2023, Jacques sang **Don Curzio** in *Le nozze di Figaro* and **Third Jew** in *Salome* with the Canadian Opera Company and joined the band as accordionist and keyboardist in the klezmer/folk, music theatre hybrid "*Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*" on tour to Saskatoon, New Brunswick, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Victoria.

Jacques brought his comedic skills as the Italian opera singer **Piangi** to Opera on the Avalon's *Phantom of the Opera*, and as **Basilio** in Against the Grain Theatre's *Figaro's Wedding*. Jacques also sang the role of **Ambroise Lépine** in *Louis Riel* (Somers) with the Canadian Opera Company at the National Arts Centre.

Jacques created the role of **Zahed** in the 2021 world premiere of *L'Orangerie* with Chants Libres in Montreal and Quebec City. He starred as **Freddy** in Tapestry Opera's *Bandits in the Valley*, earning nominations for two Broadway World/Toronto Awards for his "standout performance... impressive combination of powerful singing, solid accordion chops... and heartfelt acting".

Jacques and mezzo-soprano Marjorie Maltais perform together as French Squeeze, presenting his original accordion arrangements of their favourite French songs from Canada and France, captivating audiences with recent performances in Toronto and Prince Edward Island's Under the Spire Festival. In 2023, French Squeeze shared the stage with Cantabile Choirs of Kingston in "*La Vie en Rose*".

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MANAGEMENT

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