

## Distinguished Graduate

### Dr. Leroy E. Bynum, Jr.



Dr. Leroy E. Bynum, Jr., a Tarboro, NC native, is a 1972 graduate of Tarboro Senior High School and an Honorary Graduate of the W. A. Pattillo High School, Class of 1972. He holds performance degrees from the University of Georgia, where he studied with David Stoffel; the University of South Florida, where he studied with Annetta Monroe; and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, having studied with Joel Carter.

He currently resides in Portland, Oregon where he serves as Dean of the College of the Arts and Professor of Voice and Opera at Portland State University. Prior to Portland, Leroy served as Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York and 22 years at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia and ultimately becoming Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities.

Bynum, a lyric tenor, has appeared as a recitalist and soloist throughout the United States, South America, and Europe. He has sung operatic roles with the Opera Company of Bahia, in Salvador, Brazil, the Munich Opera Company, the German States Opera in Berlin, the Lyric Opera of Salzburg, the St. Petersburg (FL) Opera, Orlando Opera, North Carolina Opera and the Godovsky Opera Workshop. Bynum has performed his signature role of "Tamino" in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* over one hundred times in the US and abroad, including at the world-famous Dresden Opera House in Dresden, Germany.

Bynum has received performance certificates from the Mozart Conservatory in Salzburg, Austria, where he studied with famed tenor, Werner Krenn and celebrated soprano, Hilde Zadek; and the Berlin Conservatory in Berlin, Germany, having studied with renowned baritone, Dietrich Fischer Dieskau. Bynum's other voice teachers include Bennie Middaugh, Bill McGraw, Richard Hughes, and Richard Cassilly.

His teaching has produced a large number of outstanding students, who upon graduation have gone on to graduate study at the most prestigious music schools in the country. As a respected member of Georgia's community of voice teachers, in 2013 Bynum was elected president of the State's chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

While at Albany State University Bynum founded the institution's Opera Theater program, producing fully staged operas annually, making ASU one of Georgia's only universities with a fully developed opera program, and one of only five HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in the country with such a program. Leroy also served as artistic director of the region's professional opera company, *OperAlbany*, which, under his direction, mounted numerous major productions including George and Ira Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*; Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*; Bizet's *Carmen*; *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Impresario* by Mozart; Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*; Puccini's *La Boheme*; and *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell.

As a choral conductor, Bynum has directed large and small choral ensembles in Florida, Georgia, and New York, and has been a much sought after choral clinician. Leroy founded the highly celebrated Albany State University Concert Chorale, which under his direction, travelled abroad extensively to countries including Austria, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Scotland, Switzerland, and Wales, performing for enthusiastic audiences, and to critical acclaim.