



**Japanese Baritone Takaoki Onishi Wins Premiere Opera Foundation International Vocal Competition Grand Prize and Dmitri Hvorostovsky Memorial Career Grant**

**RALEIGH, NC**--December 18, 2018--Baritone **Takaoki Onishi** took the Grand Prize at the 2018 Premiere Opera Foundation International Vocal Competition Grand Prize held on December 1 in New York City. He was also awarded the Dmitri Hvorostovsky Memorial Career Grant, awarded in memory of the great Russian baritone who died in 2017.

Mr. Onishi makes his North Carolina Opera debut in *Carmen* (January 25 & 27) singing two roles: Moralès (the corporal of the dragoons) and Le Dancaïre (a smuggler). Tickets are available online at [www.NCOpera.org](http://www.NCOpera.org) or by phone at 919-972-3853. For more information about Takaoki Onishi, visit [www.takaokionishi.com](http://www.takaokionishi.com).