

Hailed by Opera Canada for his performance in Dido and Aeneas: “Ryan McDonald, a young Newfoundland and Labrador countertenor, made a particularly favorable impression as Spirit. McDonald has a voice of luminous, fresh colour, combined with natural musicality and an exciting sense of narrative drama”. An award winner from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition, Ryan has been seen on stage as Athamas in Handel's Semele, Sorceress in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, L'enfant in Ravels L'enfant et les sortilèges, Cupid in John Blows Venus and Adonis and Jack in Sondheim's Into the Woods.

In concert, Ryan has appeared as a soloist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, London Handel Orchestra, Theatre of Early Music, Hamilton Symphony Orchestra, Amadeus Choir, Symphony in the Barn and Nota Bene Players. During the 21/22 season, Ryan became a Young Artist with Pacific Opera Victoria's Civic Engagement Quartet. Additionally, they joined Confluence Concerts as their inaugural Young Artistic Associate.

Upcoming performances include Britten's Turn of The Screw with Opera5, Du Yun's Angel's Bone with Loose Tea Music Theatre, Handel's Messiah with the Newfoundland Symphony, Cellar Singers & Elora Festival Singers and Purcell's Dido and Aeneas with Theatre of Early Music.

Ryan is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of OperaQ, a company focused specifically on presenting queer theater, by queer artists for queer audiences. OperaQ's first commissioned work, Medusa's Children, has been named a finalist for this year's 2023 Awards for Digital Excellence in Opera presented by Opera America. Ryan is currently pursuing a DMA in Historical Performance at the University of Toronto where they are researching the life of Klaus Nomi and investigating the ever expanding queer performance practice guide.