

Benjamin Aaron Smith received his Bachelor of Music in Voice and Masters of Music in Voice from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and is completing a Doctorate of Music in Voice from the Jacobs School. Smith is a native of Evansville, Indiana and has explored performance, pedagogy, and arts administration throughout his career. He has appeared in IU Opera Theater's productions of *H.M.S. Pinafore* as Ralph Rackstraw, *Candide* as Charles Edward and in *Die lustige Witwe* as Kromow. His other credits for IU Opera Theater include the ensembles for *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Faust*, *Così fan tutte*, *La Bohème*, *Falstaff*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *La Traviata* and *The Last Savage*. He has participated in the Bay View Music Festival and has also appeared several times with Cardinal Stage Company. He was a member of the 2014 Apollo's Voice ensemble with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Smith has appeared in the Arts in August concert series and Tower Concert series in Evansville, IN and was a National Finalist representing the East Central Region in the Music Teacher's National Association Young Artist Competition in Los Angeles. Smith maintains a private voice studio, active music direction schedule, and concert performance schedule, and was a founding member and former executive director for New Voices Opera in Bloomington, Indiana. He was a Yamaha Graduate Fellow for the Eastman Leadership Conference in Rochester, New York and his current research explores music entrepreneurship and leadership training within higher education curriculum. Smith is a Part-Time Instructor of Music at DePauw University, an Adjunct Professor of Music in Voice at the University of Evansville and the Special Projects Assistant to the Office of Entrepreneurship and Career Development at the Jacobs School of Music.