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Met opera baritone to give University of Montana recital

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MET OPERA BARITONE
TO GIVE UM RECITAL

Ron Bottcher of the Metropolitan Opera company returns to the University of Montana to present a recital Thursday, June 30, at 8:15 p.m. in the Recital Hall, Dean Charles W. Bolen of the School of Fine Arts announced.

His piano accompanist for his UM appearance is Edwin Stahl, a conductor of the Metropolitan Opera National Company.

The young baritone, a former voice student of John L. Lester at the University, was signed by the Metropolitan Opera Company, New York City, following a tour of 70 cities in the United States, Mexico and Canada with the Metropolitan Opera National Company.

In 1960, as an undergraduate at the UM, Bottcher won the regional Metropolitan Opera auditions in Seattle, Wash., and, at 19, was the youngest baritone ever to appear as a national finalist. Two years later he made his debut with the New York City Opera Company.

Bottcher has appeared as leading artist with the San Francisco Opera Company, Santa Fe Opera, Chautauqua Opera, American Opera Society, Friends of Live Music, and Lincoln Center Summer Music Festival.

The versatile performer has also been heard throughout the country in concerts and as soloist with orchestra and in oratorio. In 1965, he sang in the world premiere in Boston of Randall Thompson's "Passion According to Saint Luke."

Bottcher, a native of Sandpoint, Idaho, is married to Prof. and Mrs. Lester's daughter Priscilla.

Bottcher's campus recital is sponsored by the UM Associated Students' Program Council and the School of Fine Arts. Tickets will go on sale Wednesday (June 22) at the Lodge desk and the Music Department office.