



KIRSTEN MACKINNON

Described by Opera UK as a "heroine [with] poise, expressive singing, excellent vocalism, and a dark and full tone", Canadian soprano Kirsten MacKinnon has captured the attention of audiences across North America and Europe. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music under the mentorship of Professor Edith Wiens, she

held the Alfred Greenberg Memorial fellowship during her studies, and was also a grant holder of the Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation for Young Canadian Opera Singers.

Highlights on the opera stage for Kirsten include a return to Canadian Opera Company and Glyndebourne Festival as Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte*; her Frankfurt Opera debut as Inès *L'Africaine*, described by Heute Musik as "dreamlike", where she later returned for the Countess *Capriccio*, Micaëla *Carmen*, the Countess *Le nozze di Figaro* and Hanna Glawari *The Merry Widow*; Micaëla at Opera Philadelphia, Helena *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Aix-en-Provence Festival on tour to Beijing, Pamina *Die Zauberflöte* and Countess *Le nozze di Figaro* for Garsington Opera.

In addition to her operatic engagements, Kirsten has performed in concert with the Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Curtis Chamber Orchestra and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. She has also given recitals in Vancouver, Philadelphia, New York, Bayreuth, Neumarkt, and Spoleto.

In 2017, Kirsten was a Grand Finals winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, placed Second in the 2015 Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition and was a grant winner in the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation Vocal Competition. She was also recently the Grand Prize winner at the Canadian Music Competition in Montreal, Quebec, and Classical Singer Magazine's voice competition.

Looking ahead, Kirsten's future engagements see her house debut at both Opéra de Montréal and Maggio Musicale Florence as well as a much-anticipated return to Garsington Opera.

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