

Biography

A dynamic and versatile performer with exceptional onstage charisma, soprano Marcy Richardson has captivated audiences performing in opera, new music, musical theater, and oratorio throughout the United States. She most recently sang with the Lyrique-en-mer Festival de Musique in Belle-Ile, France, where she sang Mozart's *Exsultate, Jubilate* and the role of Olympia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. In May 2008, she will join Orlando Opera to sing Beth in their second stage production of Mark Adamo's *Little Women*.

Ms. Richardson began 2007 by singing Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* with Orlando Opera, where she was a resident artist for two seasons. That year, she also sang the role of Cunegonde in Orlando Opera's second stage production of *Candide* and Pamina in the school outreach version of *The Magic Flute*. She was also featured as Manon, Norina, and Lucia in *Passion, Power, and Peril*, a concert of operatic scenes and arias that toured central Florida.

In 2006, she was the audience favorite and first place winner of the Heinz Rehfuss Singing Actor Awards, the fourth place winner of Opera Birmingham's Cassell Stewart Vocal Competition, and was also recognized with an encouragement award by the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Florida District). That year, she sang Susanna in Orlando Opera Studio's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Gretel in the school outreach tour of *Hansel and Gretel*, and The Shepherd Boy in *Tosca*. She then returned to Carmel, California for her second season as a member of the festival chorale in the Carmel Bach Festival under the batons of Bruno Weil and William Jon Gray. In September, she was invited to Lucerne, Switzerland to take part in the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Music Academy under the direction of Pierre Boulez, where she was the soprano soloist in Webern's Op. 18. Ms. Richardson completed the 2006 season by singing George Benjamin's *A Mind of Winter* and the soprano solos in Handel's *Messiah* with the Orlando Philharmonic.

She is a 2005 graduate of the Baltimore Opera Studio, where she sang Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* on the second stage, and featured solos in the Cole Porter Review, *Let's Fall in Love*. Upon completion of her residency in Baltimore, Ms. Richardson became a finalist in the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Competition as well in the Heinz Rehfuss Singing Actor Awards, where she won third place. After accepting a resident artist position with Orlando Opera, she sang Mrs. Hayes in *Susannah* and covered Adina in their 2005/2006 season.

An avid performer of new music, Ms. Richardson was a member of the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble at Indiana University for 3 years, where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Voice Performance. While there, she was a soprano soloist in the US premiere of Sven-David Sandström's *High Mass*, a work she later performed in Minneapolis with the Plymouth Music Series (VocalEssence) under the baton of Philip Brunelle. She has toured Mexico City and Guanajuato, Mexico for the *Festival de Cervantino* with Aguavá New Music Ensemble, with whom she also appeared as the watchman in John Eaton's microtonal opera, *Antigone*, at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center in New York City.

Equally at home with early music, Ms. Richardson sang the Queen of Sheba in George Frideric Handel's *Solomon* with the Lafayette Bach Chorale Singers, Gabriel in *Die Schöpfung* at Indiana University, and Emmaline in Purcell's *King Arthur* with the Bloomington Early Music Festival.

No stranger to musical theater, she has performed the roles of Lili Vanessi in *Kiss Me Kate*, Cinderella in *Into The Woods* and *Dream Laurey* with Brevard Music Center, where she was the dance captain and assistant choreographer. She also played the roles of Princess Leonide in *Triumph of Love*, Lady Thiang in *The King and I*, and the soprano in the Angel City Four in *City of Angels* with Timber Lake Playhouse in Mt. Carroll, Illinois.

Ms. Richardson is a member of the American Guild of Musical Artists and the Actors Equity Association.