



# Rachel Abrams

Mezzo-Soprano

Mezzo-soprano Rachel Abrams has been lauded as a standout for her vivid portrayals, warm vocal timbre, beautiful blend, and dynamic stage presence on operatic and concert stages throughout the United States. A native of Stockton, California, Rachel was born into a musical family and quickly developed an affinity for the performing arts. In the fall of 2012, she relocated to Connecticut where she continues to perform opera, oratorio, art song, crossover, and new music.

Ms. Abrams has been a featured artist with multiple companies throughout New England. During the 2018-2019 season, she performed the roles of Donna Elvira in Greater Worcester Opera's English language production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Annina in *La Traviata* with PANOPERA in Northampton, Massachusetts, and covered the role of Lepido in Cambridge Chamber Ensemble's production of Handel's rarely performed opera *Silla*. Additionally, she was the alto soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the Concert Choir of Northeastern Connecticut and the Annual "Messiah: Sing or Listen" at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center (KATE) and was the alto soloist in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with Cappella Cantorum Masterwork Chorus and Orchestra.

From 2017-2019, Rachel was a member of Connecticut Lyric Opera young artists program where she performed the roles of the Third Lady in *The Magic Flute*, Der Trommler in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, the title role in *Dido and Aeneas*, and Sesto in Handel's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*. In the summer of 2019, she will join Finger Lakes Opera as a member of their young artist program and returns to Connecticut Lyric Opera in September for their fall tour of *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*.

In the summer of 2017, Rachel was a Vocal Apprentice with the Nahant Music Festival in Nahant, Massachusetts where she performed the role of Cousin Hebe in *HMS Pinafore*, the alto soloist in Bach Cantata *BWV 94* accompanied by members of the Emmanuel Music Orchestra, and sang in the world premiere of *Nahant Calling*, a song cycle by composer Francine Trester. Also in 2017, she performed the roles of Mercédès in *Carmen* with PANOPERA, the title role in *Iolanthe* with Simsbury Light Opera Company, was the alto soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with Cappella Cantorum MasterWorks Chorus, the Old Lyme Congregational Church Choir and the 8th Annual Messiah Sing at the KATE. In the spring of 2017, Rachel covered the roles of Sarah/Dorothea in *Letter from Italy, 1944* by Sarah Meneely-Kyder in a collaboration with the Hartford Symphony, Hartford Chorale, and the Greater Middletown Chorale. This dramatic oratorio tells the story of Dr. John K. Meneely, Jr. and his struggles with PTSD after serving as a medic during WWII.

Ms. Abrams is also an enthusiastic performer and advocate for the performance of contemporary opera and new works. In the past four years, she has performed in Hartford Opera Theater's annual *New in November Festival* as Elise in scenes from *Verlorene Heimat* by Dawn Sonntag, Pythia in *We've Got Our Eye on You* by Nkeiru Okoye, *I Can Hardly Wait!* by Jeremy Beck, and scenes from *In A Grove* by Christopher McCormick. Additional credits with Hartford Opera Theater include the role of Miss Paige in Dan Shore's charming comic opera *An Embarrassing Position* where the cast was nominated for Best Featured Ensemble in a Musical with the 2015 Broadway World Connecticut Awards. She has also performed with Berkshire Opera Festival, Salt Marsh Opera, Opera Theater of Connecticut, Opera Connecticut, VOX New England, and the NEMPAC Opera Project in Boston.

Before moving to Connecticut, Rachel lived in St. Louis, Missouri where she sang with the internationally acclaimed St. Louis Symphony Chorus for three consecutive seasons. She has also performed with Winter Opera St. Louis, Union Avenue Opera, and the Southern Illinois Music Festival. In 2012, Ms. Abrams was a sponsored young artist with Winter Opera St. Louis where she performed the role of Echo in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, covered Musetta in *La Bohème*, and performed in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical review: *A Grand Night for Singing*. Additionally, she has performed with Opera Fort Collins, Loveland Opera Theater, and Opera Classica Europa in Bad Schwalbach, Germany as an apprentice artist.

Ms. Abrams has performed as the alto soloist for iconic works such as Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the Stamford Chorale, Mozart's *Requiem* with the Masterworks Chorale, Cappella Cantorum Masterwork Chorus and the Con Brio Choral Society SummerSings, Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass with Cappella Cantorum and the Con Brio Choral Society SummerSings and Vivaldi's *Magnificat* with the Stamford Chorale. In fall of 2014, she was a featured soloist in Martin Bresnick's Yiddish puppet opera: *Der Signál* accompanied by the Hartford Independent Chamber Orchestra. A lover of art song and chamber music, Ms. Abrams and pianist Michael Korman presented a recital featuring the works of German Jewish refugees with works by Schönberg, Ruth Schönthal, André Previn, and Kurt Weill in 2015 with at the Maurice Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Hartford.

Since the winter of 2016, Rachel has been a performer with Lollipop Opera Outreach. This touring opera company brings the joy of opera to thousands of school children throughout New England. This season, she will continue to perform the roles of Babe in *The Three Pigs - A Pig Tale* and the Mother/Witch in *Hansel and Gretel*. To learn more about Lollipop Opera, please visit their [website](#).