

DEAN



ARTISTS

MANAGEMENT

LARA CIEKIEWICZ SOPRANO

Whether being hailed as “mesmerizing” (Classical Voice of North Carolina), “thrilling” (The New Classical 96.3 FM), or “a clear standout” (San Francisco Classical Voice), versatile soprano **Lara Ciekiewicz** makes her mark as a compelling, intelligent, and accomplished singing-actress. As an indication of her increasing stature in the arts world, Ms. Ciekiewicz received the Winnipeg Arts Council’s RBC ‘On the Rise Award’ for 2015. An alumna of l’Atelier lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal, she has distinguished herself at San Francisco’s Merola Opera Program, the Janiec Opera Company at the Brevard Music Center, Opera NUOVA and the Banff Centre.

Lara’s 2016/2017 season began with ‘Salute to Vienna’ New Year’s concerts in San Diego and Disney Hall in Los Angeles, *Contessa* in LE NOZZE DI FIGARO for Vancouver Opera, and the title role in Pacific Opera Victoria’s JENUFA. Next season she appears as Tatyana in EUGENE ONEGIN for Calgary Opera.

A favourite with Winnipeg audiences, Ms. Ciekiewicz was heard during 2015-2016 season as *Contessa* in Mozart’s LE NOZZE DI FIGARO for Manitoba Opera and as soprano soloist in Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 with the Winnipeg Symphony. Gala New Year’s concerts - ‘Salute to Vienna’ – were on her schedule in Miami, West Palm Beach and Coral Springs, Florida. As well, Lara was featured in the world premiere of Estacio’s OURS at Opera on the Avalon in July of 2016 and later made her role debut as *Amelia* in SIMON BOCCANEGRA for Pacific Opera Victoria.

In 2014-2015, she was featured as *Liu* in Manitoba Opera’s TURANDOT with additional engagements for Orchestre Sherbrooke’s MESSIAH, the premiere of a new work by Vincent Ho for the Winnipeg Symphony and appearances for ‘Salute to Vienna’ in the Unites States. Highlights of the 2013-2014 season included *Nellie* in SOUTH PACIFIC for Pacific Opera Victoria, MESSIAH with the Winnipeg Symphony, *Musetta* in LA BOHEME for Manitoba Opera, and *Lisa* in DAS LAND DES LÄCHELNS for Toronto Operetta Theatre.

In her 2011-2012 season, Lara sang the role of *High Priestess* in AIDA with Manitoba Opera, followed by Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO). She also paid tribute to the legendary career of Len Cariou through the music of Stephen Sondheim in an exciting venture with the WSO and Dry Cold Productions. Ms. Ciekiewicz was also delighted to rejoin the Toronto Operetta Theatre family, starring in the title role of Kálmán’s THE GYPSY PRINCESS.

The 2010-2011 saw Ms. Ciekiewicz return to l’Opéra de Montréal as the saucy *Musetta* in LA BOHÈME, to Manitoba Opera as *Papagena* in DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE, and to the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for a rarely heard performance of Penderecki’s SEVEN GATES OF JERUSALEM. Appearances also included *Lyudmila* in Glinka’s RUSLAN I LYUDMILA for Opera in Concert, Le Gala 15e édition at

l'Opéra de Montréal, as well as a recital at Montreal's Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and the Gala des Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques for Montreal's Théâtre Lyrichorégra 20.

In the 2009-2010 season began on l'Opéra de Montréal's mainstage. There, Ms. Ciekiewicz covered *Lauretta* in GIANNI SCHICCHI and performed *Papagena* in DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE and during the holiday period made her Toronto Operetta Theatre debut in the title role of COUNTESS MARITZA. She completed her apprenticeship at l'Atelier Lyrique performing the roles of *Éva* in the Gagnon-Tremblay drama NELLIGAN and *Lucy* in THE TELEPHONE. Rounding out the season was a return to the Sinfonia de Lanaudière for MESSIAH, Mozart's REQUIEM and l'Orchestre Symphonique de Laval, performances for l'Opéra de Montréal's MÉTROPÉRA, and outreach events for l'Atelier Lyrique.

Ms. Ciekiewicz's 2008-2009 season culminated in a turn as *Fiordiligi* for the Merola Opera Program's production of COSÌ FAN TUTTE. Praising the beauty of her instrument, her poise and intelligence, San Francisco Classical Voice's Jason Victor Serinus declared, "...she could build a career as a consummate Mozartian and also branch out into weightier, more dramatic repertoire." In addition, Ms. Ciekiewicz made two company debuts – one on the mainstage at l'Opéra de Montréal as the *Dama* in MACBETH, the other as *Paquette* for Manitoba Opera's CANDIDE. She returned to Toronto's Opera in Concert as *Elisabetta* in ROBERTO DEVEREUX and sang *Fiordiligi*, this time for l'Atelier Lyrique. Concert engagements included an evening of Mozart with Boris Brott and the McGill Chamber Orchestra, Rutter's MAGNIFICAT with the Winnipeg Singers, and MESSIAH with the Sinfonia de Lanaudière.

Her 2007-2008 season began in North Carolina at the Brevard Music Center, where she debuted as *Pamina* in DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE under David Gately's stage direction and the baton of Steven Smith. She then presented her first CARMINA BURANA with Keith Lockhart and the Brevard Music Center Orchestra. Other debuts included the title role in ANNA BOLENA for Opera in Concert, the title role in ALCINA for Opera McGill, and her first *Fiordiligi*, again for Opera McGill.

Further highlights from past seasons include: covering *Anna* in FROBISHER at the Banff Centre; *Anna* in the world première of Michael Matthews's PRINCE KASPAR for GroundSwell and Chamber Opera West; the title role in PRINCESS IDA, *Yum-Yum* in THE MIKADO, and *Zorah* in RUDDIGORE, all for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Winnipeg; *Antonia* in LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN and *Mrs. Hayes* in SUSANNAH, both at Opera NUOVA; and concert engagements in Bach's MASS IN B MINOR for the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and Handel's ISRAEL IN EGYPT for the Mennonite Festival Chorus. Ms. Ciekiewicz holds a Masters in Music (Opera) from McGill University and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours, Voice) from the University of Winnipeg. She is a laureate of Montreal's Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques.

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