

**MADISON LEONARD**, soprano

Praised for her “silvery, ethereal-sounding Sophie” by *Opera* magazine and “lovely vocal delicacy” in *The Telegraph*, Madison Leonard returns to Garsington Opera in the 2023-24 season as Giulietta di Kelbar in **Un giorno di regno**. She also sings her first performances of Musetta in **La bohème** with Atlanta Opera and returns to Utah Opera as Susanna in **Le nozze di Figaro** as well as returns to Mabel in **The Pirates of Penzance** with Opera San Antonio. On the concert stage she sings Handel’s **Messiah** with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and returns to the Florida Orchestra for Fauré’s **Requiem**. Future seasons see her debut with English National Opera and further returns to Garsington Opera and Dallas Opera. Last season, she returned to the roles of Gilda in **Rigoletto** and Juliette in **Roméo et Juliette** with Dallas Opera and Central City Opera. She also made roles debuts as Leïla in **Les pêcheurs des perles** with Austin Opera, Marie in **La fille du régiment** with Utah Opera, and Despina in **Così fan tutte** with Palm Beach Opera in addition to returning to the Florida Orchestra for Mahler’s **Symphony No. 4**.



She made an acclaimed role and company debut as Sophie in **Der Rosenkavalier** with Garsington Opera. She maintains a close relationship with Seattle Opera at which she has sung previous performances of Gilda in **Rigoletto** and Chrisann Brennan in **The [R]evolution of Steve Jobs** as well as Adina in **L’elisir d’amore** and Frasquita in **Carmen**. Her performance of Gilda in **Rigoletto** with Austin Opera was named one of the Top Ten Joys in Dance and Classical Music by the *Austin Chronicle*. She has sung further performances of Chrisann Brennan in Bates’ **The [R]evolution of Steve Jobs** with Austin Opera and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City and first joined Utah Opera as Mabel in **The Pirates of Penzance**. She also joined the Sacramento Philharmonic for excerpts of Lucia di Lammermoor. Her first performances of Marzelline in **Fidelio** with North Carolina Opera fell prey to the COVID-19 pandemic, as did her first Pamina in **Die Zauberflöte** with North Carolina Opera.

With Wolf Trap Opera, she debuted Ilia in **Idomeneo** and Juliette in **Roméo et Juliette** following previous performances as Madeline in Glass’ **The Fall of the House of Usher** and the Daughter in Glass’ **The Juniper Tree**. She is a former Cafritz Young Artist of Washington National Opera, at which she sang Morgana in **Alcina**, the High Priestess in **Aida**, the Rose in Portman’s **The Little Prince**, and Little Zegner Sister in Mazzoli’s **Proving Up**. Other recent highlights for the soprano include Susanna in **Le nozze di Figaro** and Rosina in **Il barbiere di Siviglia** with Inland Northwest Opera, Adele in **Die Fledermaus** with Opera Idaho, and Susanna in **Le nozze di Figaro** with Amarillo Opera.

On the concert stage, she has twice joined the National Symphony Orchestra: her debut with Gianandrea Nosedà conducting Stravinsky’s **Pulcinella** as part of the SHIFT Festival followed by an immediate return soloist in Vaughan William’s **Symphony No. 3 (A Pastoral Symphony)** under the baton of Sir Mark Elder. She is a frequent guest of the Florida Orchestra and has joined institution for Orff’s **Carmina Burana**, Haydn’s **Creation**, further performances of Stravinsky’s **Pulcinella**, and a concert of opera favorites. She sang her first performances Fauré’s **Requiem** with the Apollo Orchestra in Washington, D.C., joined the New York Festival of Song for a program of music from the British Isles at Caramoor and Merkin Hall in New York City, and offered a solo recital at Washington Adventist University.

Ms. Leonard is a 2018 winner of the Metropolitan National Council Auditions, at which she sang arias from **Rigoletto** and **Hänsel und Gretel** with Bertrand de Billy conducting. She is a previous first place winner of the Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition. Additionally, she received the Women's Voice Fellowship from the Luminarts Cultural Foundation and scholarships from the Lynn Harvey Foundation and the Musicians Club of Women. The soprano earned her Master of Music degree from Northwestern University and her Bachelor of Arts from Pepperdine University. She is a former participant of the Merola Opera Program in association with San Francisco Opera at which she sang Monica in Menotti's **The Medium** and a former young artist of Des Moines Metro Opera.

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