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Ashley Kay Armstrong

Mezzo-Soprano

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Biography

Praised for her “charismatic presence” (Chicago Classical Review) and “velvety voice” (Chicago Tribune), “powerhouse mezzo-soprano” Ashley Kay Armstrong’s “star power” (Picture this Post) “lights up the stage” (The Gazette) while winning over the hearts of audiences throughout the nation.

Ms. Armstrong begins her 2020/2021 season as the Mezzo soloist for Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre’s Curtains Up concert and then makes her company debut with Bel Cantanti Opera as Hansel in a filmed version of *Hansel and Gretel*. In January of 2022 she will make her role debut as Jo March in *Little Women* with Opera Santa Barbara. She spent her 2019/2020 season as an Emerging Artist with Opera Idaho, making her role debut as Javotte in *Manon* and covering Musetta in *La Bohème*, while being scheduled to sing Sister Lilliane, and covering Sister Helen Prejean in *Dead Man Walking* (cancelled due to COVID-19). She also made her role debut as Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and was scheduled to debut Carrie Pipperidge in *Carousel* (cancelled due to COVID-19), both with Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, and was a 2020 Semi-Finalist for the American Prize in Art Song.

Ms. Armstrong completed her 2018/2019 season as a Chrisman Studio Artist with OSB. There she made her company debut as Olga/Eugene Onegin. She also performed Rebecca Nurse/The Crucible and Véronique/Le docteur Miracle. Other notable appearances include Jenny Diver/The Threepenny Opera, Meg Brockie/Brigadoon; Lucrezia/Lucrezia (Bolcom); Alto/Song from the Uproar (Mazzoli); The Wife/The Women (Pasiatieri); Suzette/Bluebeard’s Waiting Room (Granger); and Ottavia/L’incoronazione di Poppea.

Ms. Armstrong’s concert work involves The Defiant Requiem, Mahler’s Symphony No. 8, Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9, Rossini’s Stabat Mater, and Bernstein’s Chichester Psalms with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Chorus; as well as work with Old Capitol Opera and Chicago Combined Choirs. She has presented or has been featured in recitals and galas for Opera Idaho, Opera Santa Barbara, Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre, Sarasota Opera, the Chicago College of Performing Arts, the University of Northern Iowa, Northwestern University, and the Chicago Art Institute.

Currently a student of Allan Glassman, Ms. Armstrong is managed by Encompass Arts. She holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts, and a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance and Theatre from the University of Northern Iowa, where studied with Jeffrey Brich. Also a student of yoga, Ms. Armstrong is a 200hr registered yoga teacher, fostering a curiosity for movement and body awareness in artists.