



JORELL WILLIAMS **BARITONE**

Jorell Williams has been hailed by the *New York Times* for being "magnificent" and "rich toned," as well as having "perfect" comedic timing. An American operatic baritone with a wide variety of experience from standard repertoire to premiere pieces, he opens the 2021-22 season with the world premieres of *A More Perfect Union* with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra, followed by Ricky Ian Gordon and Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel* in a co-production of The Metropolitan Opera and Lincoln Center Theater. He also will make his company debut in *L'elisir d'amore* with Dayton Opera, and will be featured in concert with the Caramoor International Music Festival, Seattle Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Finger Lakes Opera, Kentucky Opera, Lyric Opera of the North, and Brooklyn Art Song Society.

His career has brought him on concert tour with the Mark Morris Dance Company, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Chorale Le Chateau, American Modern Ensemble, Essential Voices USA, and the Brooklyn Art Song Society. His versatility has allowed him to work alongside some of today's most versatile artists, including Wynton Marsalis, Lauryn Hill, Erykah Badu, Damien Sneed, Jon Batiste, David Lang, and most recently, Jennifer Higdon - for her 2017 Grammy nominated World Premiere Opera *Cold Mountain* with the Santa Fe Opera. He is a winner of numerous competitions and awards: most notably the 2018 Rochester Classical Idol XII Prize and Audience Choice Award, The American Traditions Competition, The Jensen Foundation, Gerda Lissner International Competition, Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges, The Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation, The Lys Symonette Award from the Lotte Lenya Competition, The American Prize, Serge Koussevitzky Foundation, David Adams Art Song Competition, Harlem Opera Theater Competition, Civic Morning Musicals Foundation, Harlem Opera Competition, National Association of Negro Musicians, and the Liberace Foundation.

He is an advocate for artist rights and is a newly appointed artistic council advisor for On-Site Opera and the new music board for the Brooklyn Art Song Society, using his experience to consult with arts organizations on their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.



KEARSTIN PIPER BROWN **SOPRANO**

Last season, Kearstin Piper Brown made debuts with the Dallas Symphony, New Orleans Opera, Syracuse Opera, Finger Lakes Opera, the Gateways Music Festival, and returned to Opera in Williamsburg as Euridice in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* after her debut as Pamina in *The Magic Flute*. She also made virtual appearances with the American Spiritual Ensemble and Nicole Heaston's Purple Robe Song Series. Earlier, Brown made her San Francisco Opera Stage Debut in *It's a Wonderful Life* by Jake Heggie and Gene Sheer. Other operatic highlights include singing the roles of Musetta (*La bohème*) with Dayton Opera, Euridice (*Orfeo*) with Opera Memphis, Violetta (*La traviata*) with the Utah Lyric Opera, Micaëla (*Carmen*) with Arbor Opera Theater, and Clara in *Porgy and Bess* at the Teatro di San Carlo. She portrayed the role of Mrs. McDowell in the world premiere of *Rise for Freedom: The John P. Parker Story* by Adolphus Hailstork with Cincinnati Opera and sang with the Center for Contemporary Opera as Epiphany Proudfoot in the world premiere of Mark Scarse's *Falling Angel*. Brown also began work on Glenn McClure's new piece, *Promised Land: An Adirondack Folk Opera*.

Brown was a prize-winner in several international competitions, including the Montserrat Caballé International Competition, the William Matheus Sullivan Foundation, the Gerda Lissner Foundation Vocal Competition, and the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation International Vocal Competition.

A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Brown is a graduate of both Spelman College and Northwestern University. She is an active member of Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity for Women, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Gateways Music Festival in Association with the Eastman School of Music, and a fill-in Classical Radio Host for WXXI Broadcasting.



KEVIN NITSCH PIANO

Kevin Nitsch is a pianist, collaborator and teacher in the Rochester area. Kevin is a member of the piano faculty at Nazareth College and is a vocal coach at SUNY Geneseo. Kevin performs regularly with Rochester Oratorio Society, Finger Lakes Opera, Lyric Opera and Madrigalia.

Kevin holds a BM in Piano Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, and a MM and a DMA in Performance and Literature in Piano Performance from the Eastman School of Music.

Kevin has completed Yoga Teacher Training at Open Sky Yoga in Rochester. His favorite pose is pianobenchasana:) Kevin lives in Penfield with his wife, Brenda and enjoys hiking, biking, kayaking and biohacking.