



MIA Artists Management

KIRSTEN C. KUNKLE, ***SOPRANO***

Soprano Kirsten C. Kunkle has been hailed as an outstanding singing actress with a voice that has been described as beautiful, ethereal, powerful, fiery, and bewitching.

During the 2017-2018 season, Ms. Kunkle made her debut with Voice of Reason in Chattanooga singing "Monologue of Mary" from Thea Musgrave's *Mary, Queen of Scots*, which closely followed her return to the role of the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Delaware Valley Opera Company. She performed the role of Agathe in *Der Freischütz*, on a Musical Theatre Concert, and on the Dream and Timeless Love Galas with Wilmington Concert Opera. She sang the title role in *Suor Angelica* with OperaLancaster. She performed her dream role of Magda in *The Consul* with Opera Tennessee, as well as creating the role of the Moon in *The Secret Show: A Cabaret of Scarcity and Abundance at The Painted Bride* in Philadelphia.

During the 2016 season, Ms. Kunkle made her role debut as *Suor Angelica* with Wilmington Concert Opera and revisited the role of the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with OperaLancaster. She made her professional straight play debut in *Machinal* with EgoPo Classic Theater and her professional musical theatre debut as *Domina* in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* with the Scranton Shakespeare Festival. Additionally, she was awarded an Honorable Mention for The American Prize in Voice – Professional Art Song and Oratorio Division (Women), was a semi-finalist for The American Prize in Opera (Women) and was chosen for the DC Metro Theater Arts Best of 2016 for her performance as the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with OperaLancaster and for ensemble (role of Edith Standen) for the world premiere of *Shadow House* with The Philadelphia Opera Collective and PhilaLandmarks.

In recent seasons, Ms. Kunkle performed the roles of Mimi in *La bohème* with Windy City Opera, Rosalinde in *Der Fledermaus* with Opera Tennessee, First Lady in *The Magic Flute* with Delaware Valley Opera Company, and Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas* with OperaLancaster. With the Philadelphia Opera Collective, she has created leading roles in numerous world premieres, including Edith Standen in *Shadow House*, Annie Jump Cannon in *Jump the Moon*, Edgar Allan Poe in *Opera Macabre: Edgar Allan Poe*, and Dr. Frankenstein in *By You That Made Me, Frankenstein*. Other favorite roles include *Iolanta* and *Brigitta* in *Iolanta*, *Zemfira* in *Aleko*, *Lisa* in *Pique Dame*, *Foreign Woman* in *The Consul*, *Donna Elvira* in *Don Giovanni*, *Laetitia* in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, and the *Witch* in *Hansel and Gretel*.

In 2015, Ms. Kunkle made her Carnegie Hall debut as a first-place winner in the American Protégé Competition. She was the 2014 Pennsylvania District National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Award winner and won second place in the Roschel Vocal Competition in 2015. A soloist with the Dana Symphony Orchestra, Rome Symphony (Georgia), and Toledo Symphony (Ohio), Ms. Kunkle has also been active as a recitalist, performing in concert in Georgia, Michigan, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Austria.

Ms. Kunkle attended Bowling Green State University and the University of Salzburg for her undergraduate studies, majoring in voice performance with minors in Italian and German. Her graduate degrees are in voice performance from the University of Michigan. A voting member of the Muscogee Nation, Ms. Kunkle commissioned and premiered sixteen original compositions, including one of her own, based upon the poetry of her ancestor and highly-acclaimed poet of the Native American Muscogee Nation, Alex Posey.

She has recorded extensively through the Comic Opera Guild, specializing in the works of Victor Herbert. Her recordings are collected at the Library of Congress, the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian Institution, and the Merkel Area Museum in Merkel, Texas. Ms. Kunkle is included on the list of Classical Native American Artists and Musicians at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian and on the Molto Native Music list of performers.

Ms. Kunkle is originally from Fremont, Ohio and currently resides in Wilmington, Delaware.

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OPERATIC REPERTOIRE

Barab:

Fairy Godmother – Fair Means or Foul

Barber:

Vanessa - Vanessa

Beethoven:

Leonore – Fidelio

Bizet:

Micaëla, Carmen – Carmen

Boito:

Margarita, Elena – Mefistofele

Britten:

Ellen Orford – Peter Grimes
Lady Billows – Albert Herring
Female Chorus – The Rape of Lucretia
Miss Jessel – The Turn of the Screw

Floyd:

Curley's Wife – Of Mice and Men
Susannah – Susannah

Gounod:

Marguerite – Faust

Hartman:

Annie Jump Cannon – Jump the Moon

Hays:

Mad Space Woman – Toowhopera

Humperdinck:

Die Knusperhexe – Hansel and Gretel

Leoncavallo:

Nedda – Pagliacci

Mascagni:

Suzel – L'amico Fritz
Santuzza – Cavalleria Rusticana

Menotti:

Mother – Amahl and the Night Visitors
Magda, Foreign Woman, Voice on the Record – The Consul
Laetitia – The Old Maid and the Thief
Lucy – The Telephone

Mozart:

Fiordiligi – Così fan tutte
Donna Elvira, Donna Anna – Don Giovanni
Elettra – Idomeneo
Contessa Almaviva – Le nozze di Figaro
Erste Dame, Zweite Dame, Pamina – Die Zauberflöte

Musgrave:

Mary – Mary, Queen of Scots

Offenbach:

Antonia, Giulietta, Stella – Les contes d'Hoffmann

Poulenc:

Mme. Lidoine, Mme. Marie – Dialogues des Carmélites

Previn:

Blanche – A Streetcar Named Desire



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OPERATIC REPERTOIRE (CONT.)

Puccini:

Mimi, Musetta – La bohème
Minnie – La fanciulla del West
Cio-Cio-San – Madama Butterfly
Manon – Manon Lescaut
Magda – La rondine
Suor Angelica – Suor Angelica
Giorgetta – Il Tabarro
Liú – Turandot

Purcell:

Dido, Sorceress – Dido and Aeneas

Rachmaninoff:

Zemfira – Aleko

Revak:

Edgar Allan Poe – Opera Macabre: Edgar Allan Poe
Dr. Frankenstein – By You That Made Me, Frankenstein

J. Strauss:

Rosalinde – Die Fledermaus
Arabella - Blindekuh

R. Strauss:

Ariadne – Ariadne auf Naxos
Marschallin – Der Rosenkavalier
Arabella - Arabella

Tchaikovsky:

Tatyana – Eugene Onegin
Iolanta, Brigitta – Iolanta
Lisa – Pique Dame

Trinkley:

Eve – Apple Chat

Van Sciver:

Edith Standen – Shadow House

Verdi:

Amelia – Un ballo in maschera
Desdemona – Otello
Leonora – Il trovatore

Wagner:

Elsa – Lohengrin
Senta – Der fliegende Holländer

Weber:

Agathe – Der Freischütz

Weill:

Mrs. Murrant – Street Scene



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ORCHESTRAL/ORATORIO REPERTOIRE

Barber:

Knoxville: Summer of 1915
Andromache's Farewell

Beethoven:

Symphony N° 9

Brahms:

Ein deutsches Requiem

Britten:

Ceremony of Carols

Fauré:

Requiem

Handel:

Messiah

Hebble:

Glad Tidings of Great Joy

Jenkins:

The Armed Man

Mendelssohn:

Elijah

Mozart:

Coronation Mass
Requiem

Parker:

Hora novissima

Rorem:

Ariel

R. Strauss:

Vier letzte Lieder

Verdi:

Requiem

Wagner:

Wesendonck Lieder



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REVIEWS

Amahl and the Night Visitors

"Kunkle brings her outstanding singing and acting skills to her role as the mother, registering a full range of emotions in her clear and powerful vocals, on her expressive face, and in her legible body language. She is filled with impatience towards her son (in "Amahl! Amahl!," "Stop Bothering Me!," and "Amahl, I Told You Not To Be A Nuisance!"), desperate in her poverty ("All That Gold"), and sincere in her decision to allow her boy to join the Magi on their journey to adore Jesus (in their poignant duet in "Do You Really Want to Go?"). She is a constant highlight of the show."

Deb Miller, DC Metro Theatre Arts, December 11, 2016

Shadow House

"Among the show's most affecting pieces are...the powerful vocals of POC virtuosi Kunkle and Lienhard whose resonant notes echo through the halls."

Deb Miller, DC Metro Theatre Arts, September 13, 2016

Machinal

"Within all of the metal and harshness of the world, there was the voice calling out to the Young Woman, daring her to keep going. Kirsten is like a Siren from a dark sea, seducing the Young Woman to jump off the ship... Kirsten is an amazing artist. Obviously she is a gifted soprano with a powerful and beautiful voice. But she is also an amazing performer. She knows how to use her whole body to tell a story, not just her voice. I personally find her to be hypnotizing on stage and she is really willing to make bold choices. I always look for excuses to have her on the team."

Interview of director Brenna Geffers by Henrik Eger, DC Metro Arts, May 11, 2016

"Kirsten C. Kunkle's vocals are bewitching and she gives a stand out performance as part of the solid ensemble."

Rebecca Rendell, Talkin' Broadway, April 30, 2016

"The piercing vocalizations performed by Kirsten C. Kunkle complement the oneiric experience mourning the heroine's struggle and introducing a mystical, almost supernatural, element to the scenic reality."

Katarzyna and Cain Elliott-Maksymowiczon, PA Theatre Guide, April 25, 2016

"Saturating nether-world noise, distinctive lighting, and ethereal vocalities, including Kirsten Kunkle's sublime singing, soundtrack and woman's fight for air."

Lisa Panzer, Phindie, April 26, 2016



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REVIEWS(Cont.)

The Magic Flute

"Her three ladies in waiting also had comedic chops to match their vocal skills."

Michael J. Miller, Broad Street Review, July 18, 2015

By You That Made Me, Frankenstein

"...A perfect vehicle for the resonant, mellifluous voice of soprano Kirsten C. Kunkle"

Debra Miller, Phindie, September 15, 2014

"...The best operatic performers...Kirsten C. Kunkle (Dr. Frankenstein)."

David Patrick Stearns, The Philadelphia Inquirer, September 15, 2014

Carrie

"Kunkle's beautiful operatic voice marks a great contrast to the other musical styles found in the show. It helps set her character apart and establishes her as a force of her own."

Chris Laning, Stage Magazine, October 23, 2013

Opera Macabre

"With an intermezzo that features soprano Kirsten Kunkle singing the "Music of the Spheres" (inspired by a line from Poe's memento-mori poem "The Conqueror Worm"), OPERA MACABRE is sure to capture all the "chilling suspense and lurid language" of the 19th-century-Gothic author."

Debra Miller, Stage Magazine, July 29, 2013

Aleko

"Kirsten Kunkle used fiery dark tones to play the dramatic gypsy woman, Zemfira."

Steve Cohen, Broad Street Review, July 22, 2012

L'incoronazione di Poppea

"Kirsten C. Kunkle was an effective Arnalta"

Michael H. Margolin, OPERA (Volume 57, No. 4), April, 2006

The Gondoliers

"Infectiously vivacious"

Bowling Green Sentinel-Tribune, 2000



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