

Cristina Bakhoum Sanchez is an acclaimed American soprano, renowned for her powerful voice and dynamic character portrayals. Her Afro-Latina heritage, combining Egyptian and Mexican roots, has endowed her with a natural ear for languages and a deep love for diverse cultures.

Cristina's season began with the U.S. premiere of Scott Eyerly's comic opera, *My Life Online*. In this one-act performance, she brilliantly portrayed Kay, an immigration lawyer who emerges from self-imposed isolation to confront a crisis involving a child she has never met.

Last season saw Cristina debuting two significant roles: Countess Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Mobile Opera and The Foreign Princess in *Rusalka* with Opera Orlando. Her versatility was further showcased in Winter Opera St. Louis' *The Desert Song*, where she brought the character of Clementina to life with sass and vigor.

In 2022, Cristina originated the role of Roya in Niloufar Nourbakhsh's *We The Innumerable*, co-produced by the Center for Contemporary Opera and National Sawdust. This groundbreaking production, featured on PBS, narrates the heroic journey of an Iranian woman standing up against state-sanctioned violence. Her performance was praised as "rich-voiced, dramatic and moving." (PBS Featured segment)

Cristina's adaptability was evident in Opera Orlando's production of *Rigoletto*, where she not only performed as Giovanna but also stepped in as Countess Ceprano with just a day's notice. Her talent shone brightly in the first-ever staged production of Richard Strauss' *Four Last Songs* (Vier letzte Lieder) in New York City, directed by Jennifer Williams. This interactive, multimedia experience highlighted her exquisite talent and the future of immersive theater.

Her portrayal of Mimì in Puccini's *La Bohème* with Indianapolis Opera was hailed as "remarkably expressive...not just from the standpoint of her powerful vocal performance, but also her heartbreaking portrayal of tragic Mimì." She later reprised this iconic role with First Coast Opera in St. Augustine, Florida.

Throughout her career, Cristina has performed a wide array of roles, including Rosina in *II Barbiere di Siviglia*, Dorabella in *Cosí fan tutte*, La Suora Zelatrice in *Suor Angelica*, Flora in *La Traviata*, Fermina in *Man of la Mancha*, Amante in *Don Quichotte chez la Duchesse*, Pitti-Sing in *The Mikado*, and title roles in *La Périchole*, *Dido and Aeneas*, and Bizet's *Carmen*. Her repertoire also includes Amastre in Handel's *Serse*, Thelma in Musto's *Later the Same Evening*, Annio in *La Clemenza di Tito*, and Juno in *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

Cristina holds a Graduate Diploma from the New England Conservatory of Music, where she studied under the renowned opera singer Luretta Bybee. She also earned a Master of Music from Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music from Loyola University New Orleans.



OPERATIC REPERTOIRE

Bizet:

Carmen, Micaela - Carmen

Britten:

Ellen Orford – *Peter Grimes* Female Chorus - *The Rape of Lucretia* Governess – *The Turn of the Screw*

Catán:

Florencia Grimaldi - Florencia en el Amazonas

Donizetti:

Maria Stuarda – *Maria Stuarda* Anna Bolena – *Anna Bolena*

Dvořák:

The Foreign Princess - Rusalka

Eyerly:

Kay - My Life Online

Kern:

Julie – Showboat

Leoncavallo:

Nedda – I Pagliacci

Mascagni:

Suzel - L'amico Fritz

Massenet:

Salomé - *Hérodiade* Thaïs - *Thaïs* **Menotti:**

Amahl's Mother - *Amahl and the Night Visitors* Monica – *The Medium*

Mozart:

Vitellia – La clemenza di Tito Fiordiligi – Così fan tutte Donna Elvira – Don Giovanni Countess Rosina – Le nozze di Figaro

Nourbakhsh:

Roya - We The Innumerable

Offenbach:

Antonia, Giulietta – Les contes d'Hoffmann

Previn:

Blanche DuBois - A Streetcar Named Desire

Puccini:

Mimi, Musetta - *La bohème* Suor Angelica - *Suor Angelica* Giorgetta - *Il tabarro* Tosca - *Tosca* Liu - *Turandot*

Romberg:

Clementina - The Desert Song

Verdi:

Desdemona - Otello



ORCHESTRAL/ORATORIO REPERTOIRE

Handel:	Mozart:
Joshua	Mass
Messiah	
	Strauss:
Haydn:	Vier letzte lieder
Creation	

Mendelssohn:

Elijah

CONDUCTORS

Noam Aviel Stephen Lord
John Baril Bernard McDonald
Gregory Buchalter Jeffrey Redding
James Caraher Joel Revzen
Sara Jobin Jerome Shannon
Craig Kier Curt Tucker
Kelly Kuo Adam Turner

OPERA HOUSES/THEATERS

Capitol City Opera

Center for Contemporary Opera

Central City Opera

Central City Opera

Opera orlando

Pine Mountain Music Festival

Indianapolis Opera

Mobile Opera

Winter Opera St. Louis



REVIEWS

"Cristina Bakhoum Sanchez gives a splendid performance as Clementina, a fiery and assertive Spanish dancer." - **Broadway World**

"Soprano Cristina Bakhoum Sanchez in the role of Roya is rich-voiced, dramatic and moving." **Berkshire Fine Arts**

Mimì in Puccini's La Bohème

Indianapolis Opera

Nuvo Indy's Alternative Voice

"But then something happened. Soon after the doomed, consumptive Mimì walked onto stage, I surrendered myself to the performance. It was easy to do. After all, the chemistry between Rodolfo and Mimì was electric. Mimì is played by the remarkably expressive **Cristina Bakhoum Sanchez**."

"The performances were first rate all the way around...

I found the most engaging parts of the performance to be when Rodolfo and Mimì were together onstage, both at the beginning and at the end, when she is dying.

When Mimì dies, it is an understated affair—unlike the final scene of that *Carmen* performance back in the day. And from this understatement, this production of *La Bohème* gains enormously in terms of verisimilitude."

Dan Grossman,

On the Aisle

"Bakhoum Sanchez was splendid in the role of Mimì, not just from the standpoint of her powerful vocal performance, but also her heartbreaking portrayal of tragic Mimì, which moved me deeply. Bakhoum Sanchez's formidable talent and stage presence are of such high caliber that her future in opera portends great success."

Tom Alvarez





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