

LYNNE MCMURTRY
C O N T R A L T O

Described as "a force of nature" (Toronto Star) and "an actress of immense talent" (Opera Canada), contralto Lynne McMurtry has performed with the Boston Symphony, the Winnipeg Symphony, the Edmonton Symphony, the Okanagan Symphony, Opera Ontario, Edmonton Opera and Manitoba Opera, and at many of the major festivals, including Tanglewood, Ravinia, Banff, and Aldeburgh. Conductors with whom she has performed include Seiji Ozawa, Robert Spano, James Meena, Robert Tweten, Robert Dean, Howard Dyck, Kevin Mallon, Timothy Vernon, Gordon Gerrard, and Lorraine Vaillancourt.

On the operatic stage, Lynne's vocal and theatrical versatility has won her excellent reviews in such diverse roles as Arsace in Rossini's *Semiramide*, Mme. de Croissy in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, and Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff*. Recent performances include Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff* with Calgary Opera and Opera Hamilton, and the title role in *Tamerlano* with Opera in Concert. Other recent performances include the Old Lady in *Candide* with Calgary Opera and Bloody Mary in *South Pacific* with Pacific Opera Victoria and the Victoria Symphony. She debuted recently with Opera Lyra as Marcellina, and returned to Victoria as Emilia in Verdi's *Otello*.

Lynne's rich, generous instrument and keen musical intelligence have brought her acclaim in a wealth of opera and orchestral concert repertoire. Credits include Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* with the Edmonton Symphony, Handel's *Messiah* with both the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and the Kitchener Waterloo Philharmonic Chorus, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with the Kingston Symphony, *Elijah* with the Newfoundland Symphony, Mahler's *Rückert Lieder* with the Winnipeg Symphony, and Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with Symphony New Brunswick. Last season she joined Glenn Cortese and the Western New York Chamber Orchestra for Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, and the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus for the Brahms *Alto Rhapsody*.

Lynne is also an active recitalist and has sung at many distinguished song venues, including Tanglewood, Ravinia, and the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. She is a Founding Faculty Artist of the Vancouver International Song Institute, and has collaborated there on numerous recitals with pianists such as Alison d'Amato and Margo Garrett. Her recital exploring song settings of Walt Whitman earned her a rave review in the Toronto Star, which stated, "Art doesn't get any more moving than this." She is a frequent performer of contemporary music and has many premieres to her credit, including works by Augusta Read Thomas, the Canadian premiere of Ned Rorem's *Evidence of Things Not Seen*, and the North American premiere of Judith Weir's *The Voice of Desire*.

On CD, Lynne can be heard as Roberto in Vivaldi's *La Griselda* with Kevin Mallon conducting the Aradia Ensemble (Naxos) and also in Vivaldi's *Nixit Dominus* with the same ensemble. This year saw the release of *The Complete Songs of Virgil Thompson* on the New World Records label, which she recently recorded with the Florestan Recital Project.

Lynne grew up in Vernon, B.C., and attended the University of British Columbia, the Eastman School of Music, and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where she was a winner of the Opera Trust Scholarship. Lynne lives in Fredonia, NY. She teaches at the State University of New York at Fredonia and is a Founding Faculty Artist of the Vancouver International Song Institute.

Please visit her website at www.lynnemcmurtrycontralto.com.

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