

SERENA BENEDETTI

soprano

Serena Benedetti “possesses a gorgeous, creamy voice that begs to be heard...” Awarded a Marian Anderson Career Grant early in her career, she is in demand throughout the U.S. and Europe, performing in operas, recitals, and concerts. She has been heralded as “a pure-toned soprano that soared radiantly in the high climaxes,” and was recently praised in the *New York Times* as a soprano who “sang beautifully;” the *New York Sun* declared her “A Rare Bird”.

Debuts for the 2011 season include arias of Mozart with the Fondazione Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana in Palermo (Boguslaw Dawidow, Conductor), the Ludwig van Beethoven Festival in Warsaw, Poland, where Benedetti presented *recitals of Richard Strauss lieder*, as well as *Mahler Symphony No. 4* and Barber *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Opole Symphony (Yaniv Segal, Conductor,) the role of Frantik in The New York Philharmonic’s production of Janacek’s *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Alan Gilbert, Conductor,) and Sifare in Mozart’s *Mitridate, Re di Ponto*, with Little Opera Theater of New York. She made a return appearance with the Eroica Ensemble (see below,) to perform *Tatiana’s Letter Scene* from Eugene Onegin, and concert arias of Mozart. Other recent New York appearances have included recitals at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall and Merkin Concert Hall, in repertoire ranging from Mozart and Debussy to Schönberg.

The 2010 season featured the *Knoxville* and *Mahler 4* program with New York’s Chelsea Symphony at Bargemusic, for which the New York Times praised her, “warmly lyrical performance... a lissome, sweetly sung account.” Other performances included Brahms’ *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with the Southwest Florida Symphony, Orff’s *Carmina Burana* with the Sarasota Symphony, and Dvorak’s *Stabat Mater* with the Montgomery County Chorus and Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, Handel’s *Messiah* with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra (Kirk Trevor,) and Barber’s *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* and *Mahler Symphony No.4* with Eroica Ensemble, Memphis, Tennessee (Michael Gilbert.)

Other highlights of her operatic appearances have included Susanna in Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the Sarasota Opera, Musetta in *La Bohème* with the Palm Beach Opera, Fiordiligi in *Così fan Tutte* with the Utah Symphony and Opera, Violetta in *La Traviata* with the Lake Placid Sinfonietta, Marzelline in *Fidelio* with Virginia Opera, and others. At Lyric Opera Cleveland, her Adina in *L’Elisir d’Amore* was pronounced by *Opera News*, “the evening’s highlight, fulfilling the letter and the spirit of bel canto.” She joined the roster of the New York City Opera for the 2006 season, covering the role of Fiordiligi.

Concert highlights have included her debut at Carnegie Hall in Handel’s *Messiah* under the baton of John Rutter. Other Carnegie Hall performances include those with the New York Oratorio Society and MidAmerica Productions, in repertoire ranging from Vivaldi to Mendelssohn. She has been a repeat favorite of the Sacred Music in a Sacred Space Series at St. Ignatius Loyola in New York with Kent Tritle. She has performed there the CPE Bach *Magnificat*, *St. John Passion* of J.S. Bach, Massenet’s *La Terre Promise* and Gounod’s *Tobie*, including other works. She has also appeared with the National Symphony, Danish Radio Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Eugene Symphony, the National Cathedral Choir, Greater Palm Beach Symphony Society, Lancaster Symphony, Garden State Symphony, the Princeton Symphony, and others. She has collaborated with legendary artist Dave Brubeck in his oratorio, *La Fiesta de la Posada*. Other oratorios in her performance repertoire include Bach *Magnificat* and *Mass in b-Minor*, Handel *Israel in Egypt*, Beethoven *Symphony No.*

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9, Beethoven *Mass in C-Major*, Mozart *Mass in c-Minor*, *Solemn Vespers*, and *Requiem*,



Charpentier *Te Deum*, Mendelssohn *Psalm 42 (As the Hart Pants)*, Op. 42,) Haydn *Creation*, Poulenc *Gloria*, and Fauré *Requiem*.

Recital/chamber work has included the Lyric Chamber Music Festival at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, Maverick Music Festival, the Songfest Series (Princeton, NJ), in venues including The National Cathedral in Washington, DC, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York, and Detroit Symphony Hall. She has collaborated with members of the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the New Jersey Symphony, and with pianists JJ Penna and Brian Zeger. Recital/chamber works have included Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras* No. 5, the *Simple Songs* of Aaron Jay Kernis, the *Brentano Lieder* (Op. 68) of Richard Strauss, Schubert's *Shepherd on the Rock*, and works by 20th Century composers, including David Del Tredici, William Bolcom, Ricky Ian Gordon, Lee Hoiby and Stephen Sondheim.

Serena started singing when she joined the Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus, where she appeared in *Hansel and Gretel*, *La Bohème*, *Macbeth*, *Le Rossignol* and *Werther*.

www.serenabenedetti.com

Season 2010/11

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