



LAURA VIRELLA

mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano **LAURA VIRELLA** is proud of her heritage as she was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. And, some of her earliest professional affiliations are with institutions and organizations that are unique to that country. She received her formal training first with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the prestigious Peabody Conservatory of Music and then completed her Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the equally esteemed Manhattan School of Music. She has apprenticed under Thomas Grubb and Kathryn LaBouff, as well as with Mercury Opera and Dicapo Opera in NYC. In addition, she has pursued further studies in Italy, Berlin and Graz.

During the summer of 2015, Ms Virella took on the title role in *Carmen* for the Festival Musica Comunale in Spain. That is followed by Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* for the Narnia Festival in Rome, Italy.

Ms Virella was a National Finalist in the 2013 New York Lyric Opera competition. She has gained a reputation for her innate command of the stage, with passion and precision. Her quasi obsession with words in all languages drives her impulse to communicate the message at hand regardless of genre.

The 2012 summer in Graz marked her Strauss debut as **Octavian** along Kammersängerin Linda Watson and emerging soprano Sarah Viola in the finale from *Der Rosenkavalier*, under the baton of Volksoper Wien Maestro Gerrit Prießnitz. Two days later she was named First Runner-up (second to Patricia Racette) as Best Actress in Opera in the DC Theatre Scene Awards.

Since her professional main-stage debut in 2001 as **Zweite Dame** in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* with Teatro de la Ópera de Puerto Rico, roles have included **Carmen, Rosina, Cherubino, Enfant, Prince Charmant, Serse, Bianca** (*The Rape of Lucretia*), **Hansel, Cenerentola** and **Desideria** (*The Saint of Blecker Street*).

Laura Virella's many professional affiliations include Wolf Trap Opera, Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, The Everyman Theatre (Baltimore), Teatro de la Ópera de Puerto Rico, Washington National Opera, Opera Camerata of Washington, Zipoli Ensemble, New York Lyric Opera and Coópera: Project Opera of Manhattan.

Her recital and concert work includes: Vivaldi's *Gloria* (under the baton of Mo. Guillermo Figueroa), Handel's *Messiah*, de Falla's *El amor brujo*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Mozart's *Vespers*, Schumann's *Frauenliebe und -leben*, Korngold's *Songs of the Clown*, Debussy's *Les chansons de Bilitis*, Barber's *Hermit Songs* and Déllano's *Cuatro sonos de la tierra*.

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Laura Virella has also collaborated in cinema, composing and performing the theme song "Época de grito" for the short film *Dream of Vermilion*, by emerging filmmakers Heixan Robles and Robert Alexander García Cooper.

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