

# Monica Zerbe, Mezzo-Soprano

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At Carnegie Hall, Ms. Zerbe has been soloist with The St. Cecilia Chorus in Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* and *Ninth Symphony*, Bach's *B Minor Mass*, Elgar's *The Music Makers*, and the Verdi *Requiem*, as well as in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* under John Rutter. At Lincoln Center, Ms. Zerbe sang Respighi's *Laud to the Nativity* with the New York Choral Society.

Ms. Zerbe's repertoire includes Bach's *Magnificat*, Handel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mahler's *Second* and *Eighth Symphony*, and Saint-Saëns' *Oratorio de Noël* given in appearances with the Hartford Symphony, Maryland's National Chamber Orchestra, the Kingston, Bridgeport, Champaign-Urbana, Peterborough, and Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestras, the London Fanshawe Symphonic Chorus, and the Classical Music Festival in Austria.

Ms. Zerbe sang the leading role in Hugo Wolf's only opera *Der Corregidor*, which received its Canadian debut in a concert performance with Tryptych Productions. She has sung the title roles in *Carmen* and *Dido and Aeneas*, the Composer in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Adalgisa in *Norma*, Zia Principessa in *Suor Angelica*, and Mme. de Croissy in *Dialogues of the Carmélites*. Ms. Zerbe has appeared in recital at the George Ots Festival in Estonia and at the Chicago Cultural Center.

A graduate of the University of Toronto and the University of Illinois with a Master of Music degree, Ms. Zerbe trained also at the Banff School of Fine Arts and the Britten-Pears School in England. She has been a member of the music faculties at Eastern Illinois University, the University of Illinois, University of Montevallo, University of Alabama and teaches currently at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

*"Zerbe is very dramatic and possesses a big sound...she is an exciting singer with a commanding vocal presence."* (Opera Canada)

*"Voluptuous mezzo voice and a bewitching force of nature..."* (Opera Canada)

*"Most noteworthy debut, mezzo Monica Zerbe, whose arrestingly rich voice and emotion-filled delivery we are definitely going to be hearing a lot more of."* (The Birmingham News, AL)

*"Monica Zerbe as Cypria displays a rich mezzo, and a characterization that's arguably the show's strongest. Her voice evokes a full range of emotions: tenderness, longing, derision."* (The Globe & Mail, Toronto)

*"The most striking personage was Margaretha, a part Monica Zerbe made bewitching not only by her stage presence, but also by her convincing vocal characterization."* (Toronto Star)

*"Monica Zerbe possesses a beautifully floating mezzo and above all a gift for word-painting. In the Wolf Lieder she demonstrated a talent for interpretation."* (Tagespost, Graz, Austria)

*"Monica Zerbe was impressive in the darkly voluminous timbre she produced."* (Miami Herald)

*"A mezzo-soprano with a beautiful timbre and a good sense of style. She illustrated her gift for interpretation and that she is a first-rate recitalist. At the gala the next evening, she also demonstrated that she is truly and opera singer. Her voice is evenly formed, with good coloratura and a rich, full sound."* (Sirp, Tallinn, Estonia)

## Choral and Orchestral Repertoire

J.S. Bach	<i>B Minor Mass</i>	The St. Cecilia Chorus (Carnegie Hall, 2000)
	<i>Magnificat</i>	University of Ottawa Symphony & Chorus (1997)
Beethoven	<i>Mass in C</i>	University of Ottawa Symphony & Chorus (1997)
	<i>Missa Solemnis</i>	The St. Cecilia Chorus (Carnegie Hall, 1998)
		Classical Music Festival (Austria, 1995)
		London Fanshawe Symphonic Chorus (1990)
	<i>Ninth Symphony</i>	The St. Cecilia Chorus (Carnegie Hall, 2001 & 2005)
		Classical Music Festival (Austria, 2003)
		Tuscaloosa Symphony (2002)
	<i>The Music Makers</i>	The St. Cecilia Chorus (Carnegie Hall, 2001)
Handel	<i>Messiah</i>	Bridgeport Symphony (1998)
Haydn	<i>Creation Mass</i>	Classical Music Festival (Austria, 2003)
	<i>Mass in Time of War</i>	Kingston Symphony (1991)
	<i>Sieben Worte</i>	U. of Ottawa Symphony & Chorus (1998)
Mahler	<i>Second Symphony</i>	Champaign-Urbana Symphony (1999)
	<i>Eighth Symphony</i>	Hartford Symphony (2000)
	<i>Ruckert Lieder</i>	Krannert Centre (1998)/Chicago Cultural Centre (1999)
Mendelssohn	<i>Elijah</i>	Valdosta Symphony, Georgia (2004)
		Peterborough Symphony (1993)
Mozart	<i>Requiem</i>	University of Ottawa Symphony & Chorus (1998)
	<i>Coronation Mass</i>	John Rutter, Carnegie Hall (1997)
Respighi	<i>Laud to the Nativity</i>	New York Choral Society (Lincoln Center, 1997)
Saint-Saëns	<i>Oratorio de Noël</i>	National Chamber Orchestra (1998)
Verdi	<i>Requiem</i>	The St. Cecilia Chorus (Carnegie Hall, 2003)
		Tuscaloosa Symphony (2000)
		Classical Music Festival (Austria, 1998)
		Kingston Symphony (1995)

## Operatic Repertoire

Bellini	<i>Norma</i>	Adalgisa	New Jersey Verismo Opera (1997)
Bernstein	<i>Trouble in Tabiti</i>	Dinah	Opera Ora (Toronto, 1990)
Bizet	<i>Carmen</i>	Carmen	University of Illinois (1994)
	<i>Dr. Miracle</i>	Veronique	Vancouver Opera (1991)
Britten	<i>Albert Herring</i>	Nancy	Aldeburgh Festival (England, 1986)
Kalman	<i>Countess Maritza</i>	Manja	Toronto Operetta Theatre (1990)
Massenet	<i>Sappho</i>	Divonne	Opera in Concert (Toronto, 1992)
Poulenc	<i>Dialogues of the Carmelites</i>	Old Prioress	University of Illinois (1999)
Puccini	<i>Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi</i>	Zia Principessa/Zita	University of Illinois (1995)
Purcell	<i>Dido &amp; Aeneas</i>	Dido	Symphony Nova Scotia (1995)/UofI (1996)
Schumann	<i>Genoveva</i>	Margaretha	Opera in Concert (Toronto, 1993)
J. Strauss	<i>Gypsy Baron</i>	Czipra	Toronto Operetta Theatre (1990)
Verdi	<i>Aida/Don Carlos (scenes)</i>	Amneris/Eboli	Des Moines Metro Opera (1996)
Wolf	<i>Der Corregidor</i>	Frasquita	Tryptych Productions, Toronto (2003)

## Recital Highlights

University of Prince Edward Island (Recital and Masterclass, April 2005); Royal Conservatory of Music (Nov. 2004); *Women in Music* (Mercer University 2003); *Opera Education Week* (Wesleyan University, Georgia 2003); Chicago Cultural Centre (1998); Krannert Centre (1998); *An Evening of Opera Excerpts* (Choral Society of the Hamptons, 1997); George Ots Festival (Estonia, 1992); *Gilbert and Sullivan* (Orchestra London, 1991); *An Evening with Victor Borge* (The London Fanshawe Chorus); *An Evening with Clara and Robert Schumann* (The Aldeburgh Connection, 1990)

## ***Education***

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Master of Music in Voice Performance, 1996*

University of Toronto  
*Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, 1984*  
*Opera Studies Diploma, 1988*

Banff School of Fine Arts  
*Music Theatre Program, 1989*

Britten-Pears School (Aldeburgh, England)  
*Scandinavian Song with Kerstin Mayer, 1986*  
*American Song with Theodore Uppman and Sir Peter Pears, 1985*

American Institute for Musical Studies (Graz, Austria)  
*German Lieder, 1984*

## ***Awards***

Metropolitan Opera District Winner, George London Foundation Finalist, Center for Contemporary Opera, Oratorio Society of New York Finalist, Kilpinen Competition, Concours de Musique du Canada, Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition, Chalmers Award

## ***Professional Affiliations***

American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (AFM); Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA); Canadian Actor's Equity Association (CAEA); National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS); Ontario Choral Federation

## ***Television Credits***

Voiceover: Two commercials for Molson Beer

## ***Film Credits***

"Moonstruck"

## ***Radio Credits***

CBC: Interview for Eckhardt-Gramatte Competition Win  
CBC: Various concerts as choral artist, then as solo artist

## ***Theatre Credits***

Stratford Festival: Stratford Youth Choir