

Amelia Watkins

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bio...

Quickly gaining a reputation for her beautiful fluid top register and dramatic flair, soprano Amelia Watkins has performed with leading orchestras and opera companies in the U.S., Canada, Asia and Europe, recently appearing in such prestigious venues as the Estates Theatre in Prague, New York City Opera, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Carnegie Hall, Weill Hall, Lincoln Centre, Tanglewood Music Festival, Verbier Festival, Leipzig Gewandhaus, and in concert in Hong Kong. Opera News raved about her recent performance as Zerlina at the Brooklyn Academy of Music: "Watkins's down-to-earth, irresistible Zerlina provided the major vocal pleasure of the evening — a rich, glowing lyric sound destined for the heights."

Roles include Despina (*Così fan Tutte*), Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Gretel (*Hansel & Gretel*), Frasquita (*Carmen*), among many others. The 2000-10 season featured Amelia's role debut as die Königen der Nacht in *Die Zauberflöte* in workshop with Peter Brook and at the Orchestre Symphonique de Longueuil, her debut season with New York City Opera covering Laoula in *L'étoile*, and performing 3 roles in NYCO's 2010 VOX showcase.

Ms. Watkins has been a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Festival, a Young Artist at Berkshire Opera, a featured academy artist at the Verbier Festival, a participant of the Cleveland Art Song Festival, in Carnegie Hall Professional Training Workshop, and a resident performer with the Metropolitan Opera Guild outreach program. An ardent fan of new music, Amelia has collaborated with many up-and-coming composers and performers, including the Anti-Social Music Society, Friends & Enemies of New Music, the Minimum Security Composers Collective, and performed on the 21C recital series at Galapagos Art Space, which was voted a Top 10 event of 2009 by Time Out NY. She has recently performed works by Michael Gordon (*Bang on a Can*), Augusta Read Thomas, and Corey Dargel.

A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Amelia is a current and past recipient of substantial grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation for Young Canadian Opera Singers, and is a multiple laureate of the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques. She is the winner of the Deuxième Prix Lyrique Français at the Concours d'interprétation de Musique Française de Montréal, runner-up winner in the Concert Artists Guild International Competition, and has been recognized in other regional, national and international competitions. She has been presented in recording on Albany Records, as well as with the Mitteldeutschen Rundfunk Symphony Orchestra in the première of German composer Manfred Trojahn's *Requiem* recorded live at the Leipzig Gewandhaus. Other recorded works include a featured performance on the Bobby McFerrin release *VOCABuLarieS*, as well as various film and television scores. Amelia is a citizen of Canada and the European Union, and holds a US Green Card.