



STRATAGEM  
ARTISTS

ARTIST DRIVEN COLLABORATION

## Shannon Jennings Soprano

Praised by the *Washington Post* for her dramatic intensity and vocal ability, soprano Shannon Jennings continues to wow critics and audiences alike. Her 2021-2022 season included making her house debut as the title role in *Tosca* with Opera Las Vegas, singing Mimi in *La bohème* with Newport Classical, and performing *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra. She also covered *Beggar Woman* in *Sweeney Todd* at Opera Omaha, sang a recital with Washington Concert Opera and covered Beatrice in *Three Decembers* at Virginia Opera. In 2022-23, she reprises Mimi and performs a recital celebrating her Spanish heritage with Kentucky Opera.

In the summer of 2021, she returned to Wolf Trap Opera to sing Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* in recital, the title role in Viardot's *Cendrillon*, and the *Beggar Woman* in *Sweeney Todd*. In the 2020-2021 season, Ms. Jennings made her recording debut with Death Waltz Records as a soloist in Oscar-winning composer Michael Giacchino's first solo album, *Travelogue Volume 1*. She also performed as a soprano soloist with Washington Concert Opera's Centennial Celebration of the Suffragettes, and in place of her debut with Kentucky Opera as Mimi in *La bohème* (COVID-19 - rescheduled to Fall 2022), she joined the company for digital media performances. In the spring of 2021, she joined Palm Beach Opera, singing Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte*, and covering Latonia Moore as Mimi in *La bohème* and Ana María Martínez as Nedda in *Pagliacci*.

Ms. Jennings' 2019-20 season included her debut as the title role in *Tosca* with Annapolis Opera, and her debut with the National Symphony Orchestra and Philadelphia Orchestra as the soloist in the world premiere of Michael Giacchino's *ADVENT*, to commemorate NASA's 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Lunar Landing. In the summer of 2020, she was invited to return as a Filene Artist at Wolf Trap Opera, where she was scheduled to perform Elisabeth Zimmer in Henze's *Elegy for Young Lovers*, *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the National Orchestral Institute, and in *Te Adoro: Latin Theater Songs* with Steven Blier (COVID-19).

In the summer of 2019, she joined Wolf Trap Opera as a Filene Artist, singing Bubikopf in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* and Argentine in Gluck's *L'île de Merlin*.

Ms. Jennings was a 2018 Apprentice Artist with Santa Fe Opera, where she covered soprano Ana María Martínez as Cio-Cio San in *Madama Butterfly*. As a Resident Artist with Pittsburgh Opera from 2016 to 2018, she sang Giannetta in *The Elixir of Love*, Aunt Sarah/Iraqi Woman/Shrink in *The Long Walk*, and Constanza in the rarely seen Handel opera, *Richard the Lionheart*. Pittsburgh in the Round hailed Ms. Jennings as "a vision... [singing] treacherously difficult music with what seemed to be the greatest of ease and with a voice of beautiful quality and quantity." Ms. Jennings is an alumna of the Merola Opera Program, where The Bay Area Reporter wrote that "her darker sound and clear tone have a blooming quality that easily filled the big opera-house acoustic." Other residencies have included Virginia Opera, Central City Opera, Ash Lawn Opera, the Wolf Trap Opera Studio, and the Mittelsächsisches Theater in Freiberg, Germany, where she began her career performing Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*. Ms. Jennings has also sung as a soloist with the Virginia Symphony, the Richmond Symphony, and the Mittelsächsisches Philharmonie.

Other highlights include Marguerite in *Faust* with Annapolis Opera, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* with Opera Orlando, Josephine in *HMS Pinafore* with Virginia Opera, Mimi in *La bohème* with DC Public Opera, and Guenevere in *Camelot* with Virginia Opera, for which AltDaily praised her as "the perfect blend of beauty and spirit," after she appeared in the role for the detained lead in a nearly sold-out performance.

A formidable competitor, Ms. Jennings was a finalist in the 2019 George London Foundation competition, a winner of the 2017 Mildred Miller International Voice Competition, a Capitol District Winner in the 2016-17 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and a winner of the 2015 Annapolis Opera Vocal Competition. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Florida State University.

# Shannon Jennings, Soprano



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## Opera/Musical

Mimi	<i>La bohème</i>	Kentucky Opera	2022
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Tosca	<i>Tosca</i>	Opera Las Vegas	2022
Beggar Woman+	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Opera Omaha	2022
Beatrice+	<i>Three Decembers</i>	Virginia Opera	2022
Cendrillon	<i>Cendrillon</i> (Viardot)	Wolf Trap Opera	2021
Beggar Woman	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Wolf Trap Opera	2021
Mimi+	<i>La bohème</i>	Palm Beach Opera	2021
Nedda+	<i>Pagliacci</i>	Palm Beach Opera	2021
Erste Dame	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Palm Beach Opera	2021
Mimi (COVID19)	<i>La bohème</i>	Kentucky Opera	2020
Elisabeth Zimmer (COVID19)	<i>Elegy for Young Lovers</i> (Henze)	Wolf Trap Opera	2020
Tosca	<i>Tosca</i>	Annapolis Opera	2019
Argentine	<i>L'île de Merlin</i> (Gluck)	Wolf Trap Opera	2019
Bubikopf	<i>Der Kaiser von Atlantis</i> (Ullmann)	Wolf Trap Opera	2019
Micaëla	<i>Carmen</i>	Annapolis Opera	2019
Iseut	<i>Le vin herbé</i> (Martin)	Wolf Trap Opera / Washington Concert Opera	2019
Cio-Cio San+	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Santa Fe Opera	2018
Countess+	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Pittsburgh Opera	2017
The Lady Valerie	<i>Cabildo</i> (Beach)	Central City Opera	2017
Liù+	<i>Turandot</i>	Pittsburgh Opera	2017
Costanza	<i>Riccardo Primo</i>	Pittsburgh Opera	2017
Une jeune Babylonienne	<i>Hérodiade</i>	Washington Concert Opera	2016
Anne Sexton	<i>Transformations</i>	Merola Opera	2016
Marguerite	<i>Faust</i>	Annapolis Opera	2016
Fiordiligi	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Opera Orlando	2015
Susannah	<i>Susannah</i>	Ash Lawn Opera	2014

## Oratorio/Concert

Soprano Soloist*	Hispanic Heritage Recital	Kentucky Opera	2023
Soprano Soloist	Recital	Washington Concert Opera	2022
Soprano Soloist	<i>Knoxville: Summer of 1915</i> (Barber)	Wolf Trap Opera	2021
Soprano Soloist	Suffragette Centennial Concert	Washington Concert Opera	2020
Soprano Soloist (recording)	<i>Travelogue Vol. 1</i> (Giacchino)	Death Waltz Records	2020
Soprano Soloist (COVID19)	<i>Knoxville: Summer of 1915</i>	National Orchestral Institute	2020
Soloist (COVID19)	Zarzuela Program with Steven Blier	Wolf Trap Opera	2020
Soprano Soloist	Vaughan Williams: <i>A Sea Symphony</i>	Asheville Symphony	2020
Soprano Soloist	<i>ADVENT</i> (Giacchino- world premiere)	National Symphony Orchestra / Philadelphia Orchestra	2019
Juno	<i>The Tempest</i> (Sibelius)	Virginia Symphony	2016
Soprano Soloist	Beethoven's <i>9<sup>th</sup> Symphony</i>	Richmond Symphony	2015

## Competitions/Awards

Finalist	George London Foundation Competition	2019
Grace Keagy Award	Lotte Lenya Competition	2018
Winner	Mildred Miller International Voice Competition	2017
Winner	Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Capital District)	2016
Winner	Annapolis Opera Vocal competition	2015

## Training

Filene Artist	Wolf Trap Opera	2019, 2020, 2021
Apprentice Artist	Santa Fe Opera	2018
Resident Artist	Pittsburgh Opera	2016-2018
Apprentice Artist	Central City Opera	2017
Young Artist	Merola Opera Program	2016

## Education

BM Vocal Performance	Florida State University	2011
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\* Upcoming Performance + Cover Role

# Shannon Jennings, Soprano



## Cendrillon (Viardot), Wolf Trap Opera

"Whether slouching inelegantly in a chair after housework or gliding serenely into the prince's castle, Shannon Jennings was a natural in the title role. The soprano's refulgent tone and intense phrasing when Cendrillon reminded her self-absorbed stepsisters of the duty to help the poor was an early sit-up-and-take-notice moment in the evening, and her performance continued to yield vivid results."

Tim Smith, *Opera News*, 2021

## Liederabend, Palm Beach Opera 2021

"Last, soprano Shannon Jennings appeared. Surely she is the next Renée Fleming. Her captivating plummy rounded sounds were thrilling. Her two were Ginastera's "Cancion al arbol del olvido" and "Las locas por amor" of Joaquín Turina. Both were beautifully sung with tonal purity and superb technique. Jennings's singing will stay with me for a long time to come."

Rex Hearn, *Palm Beach Arts Paper*, 04/13/21

## Die Zauberflöte, Palm Beach Opera

"As the Queen of the Night's Three Ladies, Shannon Jennings, Jenny Ann Flory and Jennifer Johnson Cano were musically scrupulous and effective ensemble partners."

Lawrence Budmen, *The South Florida Classical Review*, 02/22/2021

## The World Turned Upside Down, Wolf Trap Opera

"There were certainly highlights. The two femmes fatales of the Gluck, Shannon Jennings and Niru Liu, showed tremendously promising voices (Jennings was featured in "Le Vin Herbé" earlier this season)."

Anne Midgette, *The Washington Post* 06/27/19

## Carmen, Annapolis Opera

"Shannon Jennings was the sweet and strong Micaëla. Her delicate and nuanced performance combined with her huge voice to build an alluring character."

Elle Marie Sullivan, *MD Theater Guide* 03/17/19

"Ballentine also had impressive interplay with the lovely soprano, Shannon Jennings, who played Don José's betrothed, Micäela. Jennings' strongest scene came as Micäela begged Don José to leave his life of banditry and return home to his dying mother."

William Powell, *DC Metro Theater Arts* 03/17/19

## Le vin herbé, Washington Concert Opera/Wolf Trap Opera

"Appropriately enough to the spirit of this work, the leads in the production at Wolf Trap appeared to have stepped out of a pre-Raphaelite painting: soprano Shannon Jennings with a serpentine head of auburn hair, and blonde tenor Ian Koziara the incarnation of a Nordic knight. More important, they both brought to their roles tremendous dramatic intensity – Jennings was able to register her reaction to Tristan's death while standing motionless, only through the expression of her face – and vocal ability."

Anne Midgette, *The Washington Post* 02/11/19

## L'elisir d'amore, Pittsburgh Opera

"Shannon Jennings' sharp-toned, attractive Giannetta was another asset to the ensemble."

Robert Croan, *Opera News* 04/21/18

"Shannon Jennings, as Adina's friend Giannetta, proved the old saying about 'there are no small parts' in grand fashion. Her flair for comedy is excellent, and she sang the too short passages given to the role with a voice of much beauty. Her second act scene with the partied out chorus women was one of the most engaging features in an evening that was packed with them."

George B. Parous, *Pittsburgh in the Round* 04/22/18

"Shannon Jennings made hay of her supporting role Giannetta, bringing an unexpected charm to the character."

Jeremy Reynolds, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* 04/22/18

## The Long Walk, Pittsburgh Opera

"Other vocal highlights included resident artist Shannon Jennings as Mr. Castner's psychologist, singing of blast-induced neurotrauma with an effortless, natural authority and granting the opera a rare moment of catharsis."

Jeremy Reynolds, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* 01/21/18

## Cabildo, Central City Opera

"Soprano Shannon Jennings appears at the climax as the dead Lady Valerie and her love duet with [Dean] Murphy is the musical and dramatic highlight."

Kelly Dean Hansen, *Daily Camera* 07/27/17