



## CHERRY DUKE, MEZZO-SOPRANO

### Opera

Hailed by the press as a "radiant and confident" performer, mezzo-soprano Cherry Duke has sung with many of America's foremost companies. Cherry's "striking voice-acting and stage movement" is especially evident in complex leading roles such as Nerone in *The Coronation of Poppea* (Opera Omnia, NYC), Jo March in Adamo's *Little Women* (New York City Opera Japan Tour, Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music and Ash Lawn Opera Festival) and Lucretia in *The Rape of Lucretia* (New York Chamber Opera). She has sung the title roles in *Hansel and Gretel*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *The Rape of Lucretia* and *Carmen* as well as principal mezzo-soprano roles in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Falstaff*, *Rigoletto*, *The Mikado*, *La Traviata*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and *The Love for Three Oranges*, to name a few. Cherry has performed several roles with New York City Opera and traveled to Japan with NYCO to cover Jo March in *Little Women* and Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*. **Upcoming engagements include Giovanna Seymour in Anna Bolena in NYC and Rosina in Il barbiere di Siviglia with the Helena Symphony Orchestra.**

### "Pants Roles"

The role of Hansel has become a regular fixture in Miss Duke's career. She has performed it over 250 times across the United States in at least five different translations. She performs a variety of other "trouser roles" with ease, "quelling any suspension of disbelief problems that can arise as woman plays man." (*Denton Record-Chronicle*) These roles include Stephano in *Romeo et Juliette*, Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*, and the title role in the mystery-musical, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, among others. In 2008, Cherry performed the role of Nero in *The Coronation of Poppea* with Opera Omnia to great acclaim: "Cherry Duke's Nero was this Poppea's perfect match. Ms. Duke sang the music of this top-drawer historical creep with a regal bearing, even as he reveled in the destruction of his foes." (*The New York Times*) **Recent engagements include Cherubino in Le nozze di Figaro with Helena Symphony Orchestra.**

### New Music and Musical Theater

A versatile and intelligent singing actress, Cherry is frequently involved in cross-over and brand-new works. As a soloist in the last several seasons of New York City Opera's *VOX: Showcasing American Composers* concerts, she was featured in works with a variety of styles, including Scott Davenport Richards' jazz opera, *Charlie Crosses the Nation*. In 2009, she sang in Gordon Beeferman's *Ratland* and David Bruce's *A Bird in Your Ear*. Cherry has thrived in cross-over shows such as TheaterFactor's *Celebrate Good Times: Macbeth*, Music Theater Group's *The Rose Project* (title role) and Bard SummerScape Festival's world premiere of Carl Hancock Rux and Diedre Murray's *The Blackamoor Angel*. Cherry's versatility was showcased in her portrayal of Nellie Forbush in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific* (Ash Lawn Opera Festival). "Cherry Duke [was] spunky and exuberant and sang and danced her way into our hearts." (*The Daily Progress*)

### Oratorio & Concert

In concert, Cherry Duke has performed with orchestras from coast to coast, including appearances at major halls such as Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. Cherry has been a featured soloist in Falla's *El Amor Brujo*, Bach's *B-Minor Mass*, *St. John's Passion* and *Weihnachts-Oratorium*, Beethoven's *Mass in C* and *Choral Fantasy*, Haydn's *Theresienmesse*, *Mass in Time of War* and *Lord Nelson Mass*, Mozart's *Vesperes Solennes*, Schubert's *Mass in B-flat*, Vaughan-Williams' *Magnificat*, Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio* and of course, Handel's *Messiah*, as well as several orchestral "Pops" concerts. **Upcoming concerts include return engagements with the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park (FL), New York's Canterbury Choral Society and a debut with the Charlottesville and University Symphony (VA).**

**Awards and Honors**

A Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions New York District Winner, Cherry is the recipient of many awards, including the Grand Prize in the Connecticut Opera Guild Young Artist Competition and the Liederkrantz Foundation Voice Competition.

A Fort Worth, Texas native, Cherry graduated *summa cum laude* from Texas Woman's University where she studied with prolific vocal pedagogy and diction textbook author Joan Wall. She received her graduate degree in Opera from The Hartt School at the University of Hartford. Cherry Duke resides in New York City.