



NEIL FUNKHOUSER

ARTISTS MANAGEMENT

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Nina Yoshida Nelsen

Mezzo-Soprano



Hailed as a “rich voiced, expressive mezzo-soprano” by *San Francisco Classical Voice* and “appealingly direct and honest in tone and bearing,” by Richard Dyer of the *Boston Globe*, Nina Yoshida Nelsen will make an important debut at **Utah Opera** in March of 2009, singing Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*. Following this appearance, she will sing Alisa in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the **Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA)**.

The mezzo-soprano is the recipient of a 2008 Encouragement Award from the **Gerda Lissner Vocal Competition**. In 2006, Ms. Nelsen was a National Semi-Finalist in the **Metropolitan Opera National Council**

Auditions. The same season, she joined the **Academy of Vocal Arts** in Philadelphia as a Resident Artist, where she studies with Bill Schuman. At AVA, her roles have included Smeton in *Anna Bolena*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Kabanicha in *Katya Kabanova*, Annina in *La traviata*, Larina in *Eugene Onegin*, and Erika in *Vanessa*.

Other noteworthy recent engagements include: Stéphanie in *Roméo et Juliette* with **Opera New Jersey**, Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible* with **Utah Festival Opera**, the title role in *Carmen* and the role of Antonia’s Mother in *Les contes d’Hoffmann* with **Komische Kammeroper** of Munich, and Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* with **Opera Santa Barbara**.

In concert, she has bowed as the mezzo soloist in “Encore! Encore!”, a gala concert for **Livermore Valley Opera**, and with the **Magic Valley Symphony Orchestra** for the debut performance of "Dances and Romances", a Pops show for Mezzo-Soprano and French Horn, featuring Ms. Nelsen and her husband, Canadian Brass member Jeff Nelsen.

Nina Yoshida Nelsen spent the 2004-2005 season as an Artist-In-Residence with **Orange County Opera**, where she performed the role of the Marquise de Berkenfeld in *La fille du régiment* in their educational outreach program. Ms. Nelsen made her debut with **Opera Providence** in 2002 as Tisbe in *La cenerentola*, and subsequently appeared with the company as Dorabella in their English version of *Così fan tutte*.

Other notable roles include Idamante in *Idomeneo*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, and Lulu in Lukas Foss’ *The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, all of which she performed with the **Opera Institute at Boston University**.

In 2005, Ms. Nelsen was a National Finalist in the prestigious **Loren L. Zachary Society Vocal Competition**, and she was also a National Finalist in the 2006 and 2008 **Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition**. In 2004, Ms. Nelsen won first prize in the **Performing Arts Foundation Vocal Competition**, the **Profant Foundation Vocal Competition** and the **Santa Barbara Foundation Vocal Competition**.



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Suggested Repertoire

Barber	Vanessa	Erika
Bizet	Carmen	Carmen
Britten	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Hermia
Donizetti	Anna Bolena	Smeton
Donizetti	La favorita	Leonora
Gounod	Faust	Siebel
Gounod	Roméo et Juliette	Stéphano
Janáček	Kát'a Kabanová	Kabanicha
Massenet	Werther	Charlotte
Mozart	Così fan tutte	Dorabella
Mozart	Idomeneo	Idamante
Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Cherubino
Puccini	Madama Butterfly	Suzuki
Rossini	La cenerentola	Tisbe
Tchaikovsky	Eugene Onegin	Larina
Verdi	Rigoletto	Maddalena
Ward	The Crucible	Rebecca Nurse



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Critical Acclaim

Academy of Vocal Arts - *Kát'a Kabanová*

Nina Yoshida Nelsen is such a fine actress that she convinced us she was old enough to be Kát'a's mother-in-law and that she was tyrannical and cruel. Her rich mezzo voice was outstanding.

Broad Street Review

Opera New Jersey – *Roméo et Juliette*

The biggest surprise was mezzo soprano Nina Yoshida Nelsen as Roméo's page Stéphan, who sang her single aria with great clarity, polish and an engaging stage presence.

The Star Ledger

Academy of Vocal Arts – *Così fan tutte*

Mezzo-soprano Nina Yoshida Nelsen brought a blend of vocal verve and dramatic intensity to Dorabella.

Courier Post

Livermore Valley Opera – *Madama Butterfly*

Marvelous mezzo voice...

Oakland Tribune

Opera Institute, Boston University - *Idomeneo*

Appealingly direct and honest in tone and bearing...

Boston Globe