

# INSIGNIA

A R T I S T S

## ABIGAIL RAIFORD

*Soprano*

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Abigail Raiford, a renowned lyric coloratura soprano, has earned acclaim for her "powerful, luxurious soprano voice" and her "wonderfully comic" portrayal of Elvira in Tulsa Opera's 2022 production of Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri*.

In 2024, Abigail was awarded the Charles Maggio Award at the Shreveport Vocal Competition. Engagements included performances of Fauré's *Requiem* at David Geffen Hall with Manhattan Concert Productions, Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang* with the York Symphony, and Narcissa in Haydn's *Jupiter's Journey to the Earth* and a role and company debut with Teatro Nuovo as the Giulietta cover in Bellini's *I Capuletti e i Montecchi*. She joins the Glacier Symphony for Handel's *Messiah* in

December.

In 2023, Abigail was a District Winner of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (Tulsa District), received an Incentive Award from the SAS Performing Arts Company Vocal Competition, and became a finalist in the Emerging Artist Division of the MI Opera Vocal Competition.

Previously, Abigail joined Central City Opera as a Bonfils-Stanton studio artist, performing leading roles in Heggie's *Two Remain* (Kryzia) and *Die Fledermaus* (Ida), and receiving the esteemed Central City Opera Guild's McGlone Award. She was also a resident and apprentice artist for multiple seasons with Sarasota Opera, where she was heard as Second Witch in *Dido & Aeneas* and Belinda in family performances.

Abigail has won numerous competitions, including 2nd Prize in the 2021 SAS Performing Arts Company Vocal Competition, and Encouragement Awards in the Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition and the Student Division of the inaugural Camille Coloratura Awards. She was also a grant recipient from The Career Bridges Foundation.

As a noted interpreter of Mozart's operas, Abigail's signature roles include the Queen of the Night and First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Despina in *Così fan tutte*. Other

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credits include Rose Maurant in ***Street Scene***, Anicasia in ***La Dolorosa***, and Yum-Yum in ***The Mikado***.

Abigail has also thrilled audiences on the concert stage, particularly in performances of Milhaud's ***Chansons de Ronsard*** with the Mannes Orchestra and John Mackey's ***Songs From the End of the World*** with the University of Tulsa Wind Ensemble. Her most recent concert appearances were with the Handel Choir of Baltimore as the soprano soloist in ***Messiah*** and with Emory University in Orff's ***Carmina Burana***.

She earned her Master of Music degree from the Mannes School of Music under the tutelage of Amy Burton, and her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Tulsa, where she studied with her mother, Judith Pannill Raiford.