

Allyson McHardy

mezzo-soprano

A unique vocal colour and commanding stage presence are the hallmarks of performances by mezzo-soprano **Allyson McHardy**. Hailed by Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle as “a singer of enormous imagination and versatility”, she has appeared with the Paris Opera, Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, Chicago Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Glyndebourne Festival, San Francisco Opera, Boston Symphony, Canadian Opera Company, Warsaw Philharmonic and Théâtre du Capitole, Toulouse. Adam Fischer, Seiji Ozawa, Jeremy Rohrer, Kent Nagano, Emmanuelle Haim, Bernard Labadie, Ludovic Morlot, Carlos Kalmar and Jesus Lopez Cobos are among the conductors with whom she has collaborated for performances of works such as *L’enfant et les sortilèges*, *La clemenza di Tito*, *Das Rheingold*, *Dream of Gerontius* and *Messiah*.

Ms. McHardy bookends her coming season with performances at Maison Symphonique for Orchestra symphonique de Montréal in Mahler’s *Symphony No. 8* and later, Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9*, both with Nagano on the podium. She will be heard with the Toronto Symphony in Ryan’s *Requiem*, in Kansas City for *Messiah* with Matthew Halls conducting and will be featured this season by the Canadian Opera Company as Smeton in *Anna Bolena*.

A native of the province of Ontario, Ms. McHardy’s career is a carefully curated balance of opera and concert repertoire that moves from Donizetti to Handel, from Heggie to Mahler. During the 2016 – 2017 season she made her Beijing Festival debut in Robert Carsen’s production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, first created for Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, and completed the season with Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9* for the Grant Park Festival in Chicago. The Mozart *Requiem* took her to Ottawa’s National Arts Centre, while in Seattle she was featured in Ligeti’s *Requiem*. Of particular note were her performances as Julie Riel in Harry Somers’ *Louis Riel*, a Canadian Opera Company production that was also seen in Ottawa and Québec City as part of the nation’s Sesquicentennial Celebrations.

Recent opera highlights include appearances in Donizetti’s *Lucrezia Borgia* in St. Gallen, Switzerland, *Roberto Devereux* for the Canadian Opera Company, *Amadis de Gaule* at the Opéra Comique, Handel’s *Alcina* with Opera Atelier, *Madama Butterfly* with both Opéra de Montréal and Vancouver Opera, as Sister Helen Montréal’s *Dead Man Walking* and Handel’s *Hercules* with Toronto’s Tafelmusik.

She has appeared with major orchestras across the globe for performances of Ligeti's *Requiem* with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Vancouver Symphony, *Messiah* in St. Louis, Madrid and Chicago and a staged production of the Mozart's *Requiem Mass* for the Toronto Symphony.

Allyson's discography includes the JUNO nominated *Orlando* by George Frideric Handel with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra and Alexander Weimann (ATMA). Other CDs include the JUNO and ADISQ nominated recording of Caldara's *La conversione di Coldoveo, Re di Francia* (ATMA), Bellini's *Norma* with the Warsaw Philharmonic (Philharmonia Narodowa), two works by Harry Somers – *Serinette* and *A Midwinter Night's Dream* (Centrediscs), and Ukrainian music by composer Mykola Lysenko in a six-disc collection on the Musica Leopoldis label.

Allyson currently lives in Toronto with her husband and daughter.