

GILLIAN LYNN COTTER
MEZZO-SOPRANO



Hailed as "impeccable" by *Broadway World*, award-winning American mezzo-soprano Gillian Lynn Cotter is quickly impressing audiences with her strong voice and dynamic presence. Recent roles include Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* with Opera Louisiane, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* with Pensacola Opera, Sister Helen Prejean in *Dead Man Walking* with Shreveport Opera, the title role in *Rinaldo* with Fresco Opera and Angelica in the world premiere of *A Capacity for Evil* with Opera MODO. Ms. Cotter recently completed her second year as an Apprentice Artist at the Santa Fe Opera. Her assignments there included covering Karolka in *Jenůfa*, La Madre in *Madama Butterfly*, and she was featured in Act 2 of *Hänsel und Gretel* as Hänsel in the Apprentice Scenes Showcase.

The 2020-2021 season's engagements include a concert with Intermountain Opera Bozeman and rejoining the same company for their digital Singing Telegrams as well as canceled performances as Vera Lynn in *Another Brick in the Wall* with Michigan Opera Theatre.

The past few seasons have seen Ms. Cotter as Angelica in the world premiere of *A Capacity for Evil* with Opera MODO, house debut at Opera Ithaca as Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*, and her role debut as Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* with her return to Pensacola Opera. Ms. Cotter's 2016-17 season included her PORTopera debut as Mrs. Nolan in Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Medium* and covering the title role in Bizet's *Carmen*. She also made her debut with Pensacola Opera as Older Alyce in *Glory Denied* directed by Dean Anthony and continued the season with a cover of Amneris in Verdi's *Aida* and two performances of Jade Boucher in Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, where she also covered the role of Sister Helen Prejean. She was recently featured in the Art Song Preservation Society's Masterclass Series of Italian Art Songs and Arias with coach Joan Dornemann at the National Opera Center and shortly after made her debut at Fresco Opera Theatre singing the title role in their production of *Rinaldo* to much acclaim. Ms. Cotter was a resident artist for Shreveport Opera during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 seasons where she sang Sister Helen Prejean in *Dead Man Walking*, Mercédès in *Carmen*, Flora in *La Traviata*, Kate in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Tisbe and the cover of Angelina in *La Cenerentola*.

In the summer of 2014, Ms. Cotter was a member of the prestigious Gerdine Young Artist Program with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis where she performed the Second Spirit in *The Magic Flute* and covered the role of Sr. Mathilde in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. Other recent roles include Sesto in *La clemenza di Tito*, Prince Orlovsky in *Die Fledermaus*, Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Mrs. Grose in *The Turn of the Screw*, Doralice in *La gazetta*, Beppe in *L'amico Fritz*, Nicklausse in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, La Frugola, *Il tabarro* and Adeline in *Strawberry Fields*.

Ms. Cotter has performed as a soloist in many concert works including Handel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, Mozart's *Mass in C major*, and Bach's *Cantata 133* with various orchestras including the Mason Symphony, Shreveport Symphony, Rapides Symphony Orchestra, Lakeview Symphony Orchestra, New England Conservatory Symphony and the State University of New York at Fredonia Symphony. Ms. Cotter won 1st prize in the 2017 Opera MODO competition and the grand prize in the Ann Arbor Song Slam where she performed the world premiere of "Invictus" by composer Evan Snyder. She was a Regional Finalist for the 2018, 2017, and 2016 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in the Mid-Atlantic, Gulf Coast, and the Great Lakes Region and in 2015, was awarded the New Orleans District "Encouragement Award." She received 2nd in the 2017 Rochester Opera Competition and the 2016 Mary Jacobs Smith Singer of the Year Competition and was awarded the Barbara Marshall Award in the Mary Jacobs Smith Singer of the Year Award.

Off the opera stage, Ms. Cotter is an avid marathoner having completed the 2013 Wine Glass Full Marathon in Corning, NY, the 2014 Philadelphia Full Marathon, and the 2017 Buffalo Half Marathon.

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ROLES

Vera Lynn*	<i>Another Brick in the Wall</i>	Michigan Opera Theatre	2021
Joan*	<i>Maid of Orleans</i>	Opera Company of Middlebury	2020
Karolka (cv)	<i>Jenufa</i>	Santa Fe Opera	2019
Hansel	<i>Hansel und Gretel</i>	Opera Louisiane	2018
Petra	<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Opera Ithaca	2018
Angelica	<i>A Capacity for Evil</i>	Opera MODO	2018
La Madre (cv)	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Santa Fe Opera	2018
Suzuki	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Pensacola Opera	2018
Edith	<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Opera Ithaca	2017
Dorabella	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Shreveport Opera	2017
Sister Helen Prejean (cv)	<i>Dead Man Walking</i>	Pensacola Opera	2017
Jade Boucher	<i>Dead Man Walking</i>	Pensacola Opera	2017
Older Alyce	<i>Glory Denied</i>	Pensacola Opera	2016
Carmen (cv)	<i>Carmen</i>	Opera Maine	2016
Sister Helen Prejean	<i>Dead Man Walking</i>	Shreveport Opera	2016
Mercedes	<i>Carmen</i>	Shreveport Opera	2015
Rinaldo	<i>Rinaldo</i>	Fresco Opera	2015
Angelina (cv)	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	Shreveport Opera	2015
Tisbe	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	Shreveport Opera	2015
2 nd Spirit	<i>The Magic Flute</i>	Opera Theatre of St. Louis	2014
Flora	<i>La Traviata</i>	Shreveport Opera	2014

CONCERT/ORATORIO

Soloist	Singing Telegrams	Intermountain Opera Bozeman	2021
Soloist	<i>From the Heart</i>	Intermountain Opera Bozeman	2020
Soloist	Mozart: <i>Requiem</i>	Mason Symphony	2018
Soloist	Mozart: <i>Coronation Mass</i>	Pensacola Choral Society	2017
Soloist	Mozart: <i>Mass in C minor</i>	Texarkana Symphony	2016
Soloist	Handel: <i>Messiah</i>	Shreveport Symphony	2016

AWARDS

Regional Finalist	Mid- Atlantic Region; Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions	2018
Winner	Mary Jacobs Smith Singer of the Year; Shreveport Opera	2018
Semi-finalist	Opera Birmingham Vocal Competition	2018
First Prize	Opera MODO Competition	2017
Regional Finalist	Gulf Coast Region; Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions	2017
2 nd Place	Rochester Opera Competition	2017
Regional Finalist	Great Lakes Region; Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions	2016

TRAINING

Apprentice Artist	Santa Fe Opera	2018; 2019
Resident Artist	Pensacola Opera	2016; 2017
Studio Artist	Opera Maine	2016
Studio Artist	Aspen Opera Center	2015
Gerdine Young Artist	Opera Theatre of St. Louis	2014
Resident Artist	Shreveport Opera	2014; 2015

*cancelled due to COVID-19

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CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Hansel – Hansel und Gretel – Santa Fe Opera

“Mezzo Gillian Lynn Cotter portrayed her brother Hansel very convincingly.”

-Voche di Meche

Rinaldo – Rinaldo – Fresco Opera

“The cast is uniformly strong, particularly Gillian Cotter as Rinaldo/Skywalker...
Cotter has a strong, clear voice and suitably” winsome presence...”

-Madison Isthmus

“Starring as the daring Rinaldo is the impeccable Gillian Cotter. Embodying every
raw emotion, while still giving room for the comedy of the pseudo parody, Cotter's
crisp voice gives Handel's music the beauty it deserves.”

-Broadway World

Prince Orlovsky – Die Fledermaus – New England Conservatory

“The eccentricity of Gillian Lynn Cotter's androgynous and disconcertingly straight-faced Prince Orlovsky
heightened the edge of absurdity. The thick Russian accent and deadpan expression Cotter employed made
quite a comedic splash. She displayed commendable vocal agility in her jumpy Act II aria and the lively
drinking song.”

-Boston Arts Examiner

Mrs. Grose – The Turn of the Screw – New England Conservatory

“Gillian Cotter as Mrs. Grose, the housekeeper, sang with richness and conviction, and had a great stage
presence—direct, earnest that captured the character nicely.”

-The Boston Musical Intelligencer

La Frugola – Il tabarro – Nickel City Opera

“Filling out the cast were Gillian Cotter -- a creative, clear-voiced, funny Frugola...”

-The Buffalo News