

Elizabeth Racheva

soprano

elizabeth@elizabethracheva.com | www.elizabethracheva.com

Upcoming Engagements

Guest Artist	Chamber Music Amici	Eugene, OR	2010
Masha/Soloist	<i>The Music Shop</i> /art song/LyricFest	Philadelphia, PA	2010
Soloist	Messe C-dur-Mozart/Eugene Concert Choir	Eugene, OR	2011

Opera

Mary Lincoln/Eternity~	<i>Lincoln: A Poetic Opera</i> -Andoniadis	New York, NY	2009
Despina	<i>Così fan tutte</i> -Mozart	The Living Opera	2008
Musetta*	<i>La Bohème</i> -Puccini	Lubbock Symphony	2007
Laurie Moss	<i>The Tender Land</i> -Copland	The Living Opera	2007
		Opera Vivente	2004
Gretel	<i>Hansel and Gretel</i> -Humperdinck	North Carolina Symphony	2006
		Capitol Opera Raleigh	2004
Barbarina; Susanna (cover)	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> -Mozart	Greensboro Opera Company	2005
Lisette+	<i>La Rondine</i> -Puccini	Baltimore Opera à la carte	2004
Serpette	<i>La finta giardiniera</i> -Mozart	Opera Vivente	2003
Erste Dame	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i> -Mozart	Lyric Opera of New York	2003
		Peabody Opera Theatre	2000
Masha	<i>The Music Shop</i> -Wargo	Baltimore Opera	2002, 2003
Frasquita*	<i>Carmen</i> -Bizet	Berkshire Opera Company	2002
Mrs. Gobineau*	<i>The Medium</i> -Menotti	Berkshire Opera Company	2002
Niece One*	<i>Peter Grimes</i> -Britten	Berkshire Choral Festival	2002
Valencienne+	<i>The Merry Widow</i> -Léhar	Baltimore Opera à la carte	2001
Despina Pig	<i>The Three Little Pigs</i> -Davies	Baltimore Opera	2000-2002
Katrina	<i>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i> -Goode	Baltimore Opera	2000-2002
First Daughter	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i> -Giannini	Baltimore Opera	2000-2002
Vixen, title role	<i>The Cunning Little Vixen</i> -Janáček	Peabody Opera Theatre	1998
Adele*	<i>Die Fledermaus</i> - J. Strauss	Baltimore Opera Guild	1998, 1999
Gianetta	<i>The Gondoliers</i> - Gilbert & Sullivan	Young Victorian Theatre Co.	1999
Cecy, title role	<i>The April Witch</i> -Shapiro	Peabody/Nat'l Opera Association	1998

~ premiere * scenes + semi-staged

Concert

Gabriel/Eve	<i>The Creation</i> -Haydn	University of Delaware <i>Schola Cantorum</i>	2009
Soloist	Summer Pops	Eugene Symphony	2009
Soloist	<i>Music of Jake Heggie</i> (composer in attendance)	Cliburn at the Modern (TX)	2009
Soloist	Christmas Pops	Dallas Symphony Orchestra	2007
Soloist	Holiday Joy	Mid-Atlantic Symphony	2007
Soloist (Grouch)	<i>Green Eggs and Ham</i> -Kapilow	Fort Worth Symphony	2007, 2008
Fairy	<i>Midsummer's Night Dream</i> -Mendelssohn	Charleston Symphony	2007
		The Lancaster Festival (OH)	2004
Soloist	<i>Union-Illick</i>	Voices of Change (TX)	2007
Klärchen	<i>Egmont</i> -Beethoven	Dallas Symphony Orchestra	2006
Soprano	<i>Four Songs for Voice & Violin</i> -Holst	One World Symphony (NY)	2004
Soprano soloist	<i>Mass in G</i> -Schubert	Columbia Bach Society (NY)	2003
Soprano	<i>On the Town</i> -Bernstein Revue	Berkshire Opera Company	2002
Soloist	<i>Neue Liebslieder</i> -Brahms	Berkshire Opera Company	2002
Soprano	<i>Broadway Beats</i> -Gershwin Revue	Peabody Opera Outreach	1999

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Recitals

PhillyFringe + Live Arts Festival	Music by Andrea Clearfield	Philadelphia, PA	2009
Fine Arts Chamber Players	Duo Recital (soprano & trumpet)	Dallas, TX	2008
Camerata Winds	<i>Der Hirt auf dem Felsen</i>	Dallas, TX	2008
Voces Intimae	<i>Russian & Scandinavian Art Song</i>	Dallas, TX	2009
	<i>Spirituality in Art Song</i>		2008
	<i>Italienisches Liederbuch</i>		
	<i>Schubertiade</i>		2007
	<i>Los Colores del Amor</i>		2006
	<i>A Harvest of Songs</i>		2006
<i>Music at Zion</i>	Solo Recital	Dallas, TX	2007
<i>Festival of Sound</i>	Solo Recital	Dallas, TX	2006
<i>Music at Trinity Church</i>	Concerts at One	New York, NY	2005
<i>Music at St. Paul's</i>	Solo Recital	New York, NY	2003
Clark Art Institute	<i>The Vienna Project: Vienna in Song</i>	Williamstown, MA	2002
Academy Art Museum	<i>Postcard from Vienna</i>	Easton, MD	2002
Rising Stars Concert Series	<i>Duo Rossignol</i> (soprano & flute)	Fairfax, VA	2002

Education & Training

Berkshire Opera Company Resident Artist Training Program, 2002
Franz Schubert Institut, Baden bei Wien, Austria, 2001
Middlebury College Deutscheschule, 2000
Graduate Performance Diploma, Peabody Conservatory, 2000
Master of Music in Voice *Pi Kappa Lambda*, Peabody Conservatory, 1999
Bachelor of Arts, *high honors*, Emory University, 1997

Awards

Winner	Russell C. Wonderlic Vocal Competition	2001
Winner	Rising Stars Competition	2001
Career Development Grant	Peabody Conservatory	2000, 2003
Merrit V. Howard Scholarship	Peabody Conservatory	1999-2000
George Castell Prize	Peabody Conservatory	2000
Lillian Howard Mann Prize	Peabody Conservatory	1999
Dean's Scholar in Music	Emory University	1993-1997

Voice Teachers

Thom Houser (current), Brian Schexnayder, Ruth Drucker, Teresa Hopkin, Ashley Putnam

Directors

John Bowen, Linda Brovsky, Roger Brunyate, Debra Dickenson, Michael Ehrman, John Lehmeyer, Henry MacCarthy, John de los Santos, Ellen Schlaefter

Conductors

Julien Benichou, Nicholas Cleobury, William Henry Curry, Claus Peter Flor, Gregory Sullivan Isaacs, Richard Kaufman, Alexander Mickelthwate, Jeffrey Pollock, Valéry Rvkin, Aaron Sherber, Gary Sheldon, Brian Stone, Scott Terrell

Coaching: Lieder

Elly Ameling, Helmut Deutsch, Keith Engen, Martha Gerhart, Wolfgang Holzmaier, Martin Isepp, Rudolf Jansen, Joel Revzen, Robert Tear, Laura Ziegler

Coaching: Opera

Claude Corbeil, Eileen Cornett, Kristin Ditlow, Thomas Grubb, James Harp, Lisa Hasson, Joe Illick, JoAnn Kulesza, Djordje Nesic, Inna Leytush, Joe Mechavich, Arlene Shrut

Critical Commentary: Elizabeth Racheva, soprano

Voces Intimae at the Meadows Museum of Art

"The performers were...a confident group that projected strongly when forcefulness was in order but took care to observe subtle varieties of mood...Ms. Racheva, who was impressive as a soloist in the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's concerts over the weekend, continued her winning ways in varied music by Rodrigo and Obradors. The Obradors songs, one of which was almost Puccinesque, were exceptionally appealing."

Olin Chism, *The Dallas Morning News*

Opera Vivente: *The Tender Land* (Copland)

"As the wistful Laurie, wondering about "the world so wide" on the eve of her high school graduation, soprano Elizabeth Racheva offered a bright, well-focused tone, exemplary diction and persuasive acting."

Tim Smith, *The Baltimore Sun*

The Living Opera: *Così fan tutte* (Mozart)

"I was particularly impressed with the musical sounds of Abba Hamza as Fiordiligi, Elizabeth Racheva as Despina and Thomas Irwin as Guglielmo. All members have strong stage instincts."

Olin Chism, *The Dallas Morning News*

Dallas Symphony Orchestra: *Egmont* (Beethoven)

"The DSO's experiment worked rather well, with a superb beginning and ending by Mr. Flor and the orchestra and some less hyper but always interesting music in between....Ms. Racheva's sweet soprano caressed the ear."

Olin Chism, *The Dallas Morning News*

Van Cliburn Foundation: *Cliburn at the Modern* (Heggie)

"Cliburn at the Modern brings out the best in Heggie's music...Elizabeth Racheva (with Heggie again accompanying) followed with *Rise and Fall*, four songs based on sculptures ancient and modern. Racheva's animated delivery and bright, peppery soprano represented urgent incantation and transcendent calm...The tender duet *Facing Forward* sung by [Virginia] Dupuy and Racheva — a dialogue between parent and child — brought tears to some."

Chris Shull, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*

Voces Intimae: *Italienisches Liederbuch* (Wolf)

"Voces rescues Wolf's little-heard prize....The four young singers brought not only powerful, expressive voices but also physically gripping presences. The most compelling of the four was soprano Elizabeth Racheva....alone among the quartet she really sang off the words. With superb German diction, she colored tones and molded phrases as vividly as a great storyteller."

Scott Cantrell, *The Dallas Morning News*

Lubbock Symphony: *La bohème* (Puccini)

"Puccini's story was sung in gorgeous fashion. Duets could not be more musically dramatic and guests Elizabeth Racheva and Jonathan Carle were amusing in the roles of Musetta and Marcello."

William Kerns, *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*

Voces Intimae: *White Nights and Northern Lights: Russian and Scandinavian Art Song*

"Warm feelings for the music of cold countries in Voces Intimae concert....Racheva was the best of the vocalists, a naturally communicative performer with a voice nicely balancing warmth and tang."

Scott Cantrell, *The Dallas Morning News*

Greensboro Opera Company: *Le nozze di Figaro* (Mozart)

"All the roles were well cast...The sexy Barbarina (Elizabeth Racheva), who enchants and eventually captures Cherubino, has a delicious voice not usually found in this small role. I look forward to hearing her in other roles, as do I Carolyn Kahl (Cherubino)."

Peter Perret, *Classical Voice North Carolina*

Charleston Symphony Orchestra: *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Mendelssohn)

"Elizabeth Racheva was appropriately cast as the First Fairy with her crystalline and clear soprano, while Dawn Pierce's rich mezzo was the knowing Second Fairy. Together they made a harmonious duo, reinforced by the beautiful singing of the Charleston Symphony Women's Chorus."

Loretta Haskell, *Charleston Post and Courier*

Voices of Change

"[Joe Illick's] spare Union, for soprano (Elizabeth Racheva), horn (Gregory Hustis) and piano (Mr. Illick), setting fragments from Thoreau and Emerson, did capture a bit of the transcendentalist spirit. Ms. Racheva sang stirringly, phrasing eloquently."

Scott Cantrell, *The Dallas Morning News*

Biography: Elizabeth Racheva, soprano

Equally at home on the opera and concert stages, dynamic soprano **Elizabeth Racheva** has been hailed as “a great storyteller” (*The Dallas Morning News*) offering “bright, well-focused tone, exemplary diction and persuasive acting” (*The Baltimore Sun*). In 2009, the soprano made her debut on the Cliburn at the Modern series under the auspices of the Van Cliburn Foundation in an afternoon with Jake Heggie; the composer was in attendance for the specially designed program of his songs. The 2009-2010 season includes a number of debuts including the premiere of George Andoniadis’s concert opera, *Lincoln: A Poetic Opera*, in New York, NY with the Manhattan Choral Ensemble, and her Philadelphia debut with LyricFest performing art songs, as well as the role of Masha in Richard Wargo’s *The Music Shop*.

The 2007-2008 season marked Ms. Racheva’s debut with Mid-Atlantic Symphony, as well as a return to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in a program of Holiday Favorites and a reprise of Kapilow’s *Green Eggs & Ham* with Fort Worth Symphony. A popular chamber musician in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, she recently debuted with Camerata Winds, a chamber woodwind ensemble, and Fine Arts Chamber Players, joined by Russell Campbell, Associate Principal Trumpet for the DSO. She also made her role debut as Despina in a return to The Living Opera in June 2008.

In 2006-2007 the North Carolina native won praise in *The Dallas Morning News* both for her “impressive” debut with the Dallas Symphony in subscription concerts led by Maestro Claus Peter Flor, as well as repeat appearances with Voces Intimae, a Dallas-based organization devoted to sustaining art song performance. After several collaborations with Voces, in 2007-2008 Elizabeth was invited to lead the group as artistic director. Other debuts in 2006-2007 included Fort Worth Symphony, Charleston Symphony, The Living Opera, and the Dallas-based contemporary chamber music group, Voices of Change. In 2005-2006 the soprano debuted as Barbarina with Greensboro Opera and as Gretel in a joint production with North Carolina Symphony and Capitol Opera Raleigh, which she was promptly engaged to reprise during that orchestra’s 2006 Summerfest series.

Elizabeth has embodied a number of dramatic and comedic heroines in both the standard and modern repertoire for which she has been acclaimed for her “delicious voice” (*Classical Voice North Carolina*). Her contemporary roles include Laurie Moss in Copland’s *The Tender Land* (Opera Vivente, The Living Opera), Masha in Richard Wargo’s *The Music Shop* (Baltimore Opera, 2002 and 2003 Artscape Festivals), Niece One (*Peter Grimes*, Berkshire Choral Festival), and the title roles in Janáček’s *The Cunning Little Vixen* and David Shapiro’s prize-winning chamber opera *The April Witch*, which she performed for the National Opera Association. Other favorite portrayals include Serpenta (Mozart’s *La finta giardiniera*), Valencienne (*The Merry Widow*), Lisette (*La Rondine*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Erste Dame and Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*), Lizette (*Naughty Marietta*), Gianetta (*The Gondoliers*), and Serpina (*La serva padrona*) for presenters including Lyric Opera of New York, Baltimore Opera à la carte/Peggy & Yale Gordon Trust, Baltimore Opera Guild, and Young Victorian Theatre Company.

Elizabeth was trained as a Resident Artist at Berkshire Opera Company and was also engaged as a member of the Baltimore Opera Education Ensemble in three different productions from 2000-2002, performing for schoolchildren throughout the Mid-Atlantic in venues including Wolfltrap Theatre-in-the-Woods, Annapolis Opera, and Opera Delaware.

Noted for her incisive musicianship and expressive sensitivity for the written word, Ms. Racheva has appeared in concert and gala evenings for such presenters as Berkshire Choral Festival, Columbia Bach Society (NY), and the Lancaster Music Festival (OH) in repertoire by Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn, and Britten, as well as Tin Pan Alley classics and Pops favorites. She also cherishes the opportunity to craft innovative art song recitals, which have led to numerous collaborations with longtime duo partner Laura Ziegler. Notable recital appearances include Trinity Church Concerts at One series in Lower Manhattan, Music at St. Paul’s (NY), Easton’s Academy Art Museum Recital Series, Baltimore’s Music at Second Series as the winner of the Russell Wonderlic Competition, *The Vienna Project: Vienna in Song* at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA, and the Rising Stars Concert Series in Fairfax, VA with flutist Betsy Garry as the prize-winning chamber music group Duo Rossignol.

A recipient of several scholarships, Elizabeth earned a Bachelor of Arts with high honors from Emory University and a Master of Music and Graduate Performance Diploma, with certificate in opera performance, from Peabody Conservatory. She has completed studies at the Middlebury College Deutscheschule and the Franz Schubert Institut in Baden bei Wien, Austria, where she specialized in the study of the Lied and had the honor to study Lieder and poetry with such eminent artists as Helmut Deutsch, Elly Ameling, Rudolf Jansen, Wolfgang Holzmair, and Robert Tear. When she is not singing, Elizabeth enjoys art of all kinds, film, literature, travel, and time in nature. Elizabeth currently resides in Philadelphia with her husband, conductor Danail Rachev.

Stage Repertoire: Elizabeth Racheva, soprano

Opera

ANDONIADIS	<i>Lincoln: A Poetic Opera</i> (world premiere)	Mary/Eternity
BIZET	<i>Carmen</i>	Frasquita
BRITTEN	<i>Peter Grimes</i>	Niece One
COPLAND	<i>The Tender Land</i>	Laurie Moss
DAVIES (after Mozart)	<i>The Three Little Pigs</i>	Despina Pig
DÉLIBES	<i>Lakmé</i>	Cherubino Pig
GIANNINI	<i>Beauty & the Beast</i>	Ellen
HUMPERDINCK	<i>Hansel & Gretel</i>	First Daughter
JANÁČEK	<i>The Cunning Little Vixen</i>	Gretel
GOODING	<i>The Legend of Sleep Hollow</i>	Vixen Sharp-Ears
MENOTTI	<i>The Medium</i>	Katrina van Tassel
MOZART	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Mrs. Gobineau
	<i>La finta giardiniera</i>	Despina
	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Serpetta
	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Barbarina
		Erste Dame
		Papagena
PERGOLESI	<i>La serva padrona</i>	Serpina
PUCCINI	<i>La bohème</i>	Musetta
	<i>La rondine</i>	Lisette
SHAPIRO	<i>The April Witch</i>	Cecy, title role
WARGO	<i>The Music Shop</i>	Masha

Operetta & Musical Theater

BERNSTEIN	<i>West Side Story</i>	Maria
GILBERT	<i>The Gondoliers</i>	Gianetta
HAMMERSTEIN	<i>Oklahoma</i>	Laurie
HERBERT	<i>Naughty Marietta</i>	Lizette
LÉHAR	<i>The Merry Widow</i>	Valencienne
SONDHEIM	<i>Into the Woods</i>	Princess
STRAUSS, J.	<i>Die Fledermaus</i>	Adele

Suggested Repertoire

**indicates roles that have been thoroughly prepared for cover assignments

BELLINI	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Adina
BIZET	<i>Les Pêcheurs de Perles</i>	Lëïla
BRITTEN	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	Governess
GILBERT	<i>The Mikado</i>	Yum-Yum
MENOTTI	<i>The Old Maid and the Thief</i>	Laetitia
MOZART	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Zerlina**
	<i>Idomeneo</i>	Ilia
	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Pamina**
SUSA	<i>Transformations</i>	Anne Sexton
STRAUSS, R.	<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>	Sophie
STRAVINSKY	<i>The Rake's Progress</i>	Anne Trulove

Concert Repertoire: Elizabeth Racheva, soprano

Oratorio & Orchestral

BACH	<i>Ein feste Burg, BWV 80</i> <i>Wachet auf, BWV 140</i> <i>Kaffee-Kantata, BWV 211</i> <i>Weihnachts Oratorium</i>	Lieschen
BARBER	<i>Knoxville: Summer of 1915</i>	
BEETHOVEN	<i>Egmont</i>	Klärchen
CARISSIMI	<i>Jephthé</i>	Filia
FAURÉ	<i>Requiem</i>	
HANDEL	<i>Messiah</i> <i>Samson</i>	Israelitish Woman
HAYDN	<i>Die Schöpfung</i>	Gabriel/Eva
KAPILOW	<i>Green Eggs and Ham</i>	
MENDELSSOHN	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Fairy
MOZART	<i>Various concert arias</i>	
SCHUBERT	<i>Mass in G</i>	
STRAUSS	<i>Orchestral Songs & Brentano Lieder</i>	

Chamber

ARGENTO	<i>Letters from Composers</i>	sop+guitar
BRAHMS	<i>Liebeslieder</i> <i>Neue Liebeslieder</i>	vocal chamber music vocal chamber music
CORIGLIANO	<i>Three Irish Folksong Settings</i>	sop+flute
COWELL	<i>Vocalise</i>	sop+flute+piano
EVERETT	<i>Countess P_'s Advice (world premiere)</i>	sop+trumpet+piano
FLANAGAN	<i>Goodbye, my fancy</i>	sop+flute+guitar
HANDEL	<i>Neun Deutsche Arien</i>	sop+obbligato
HOLST	<i>Four songs for voice and violin, Op. 35</i>	sop+violin
ILLICK	<i>Union (world premiere)</i>	sop+horn+piano
LAITMAN	<i>Captivity</i>	sop+trumpet
SARGON	<i>Huntsman What Quarry</i>	sop+horn+piano
SCARLATTI	<i>Sette arie con tromba sola, Nos. 3,4,5</i> <i>Su le sponde del Tebro</i>	sop+trumpet+continuo sop+trumpet+continuo
SCHAFFER	<i>Minnelieder</i>	sop+woodwind quintet
SCHUBERT	<i>Der Hirt auf dem Felsen</i>	sop+clarinet+piano
STRAUSS	<i>Alphorn</i>	sop+horn+piano
VILLA-LOBOS	<i>Bachianas Brasilieras, No. 5</i>	sop+celli

Song

~these pieces are also prepared for performance with orchestra * only major cycles are listed, contact for complete song repertoire list

ARGENTO	<i>Six Elizabethan Songs~</i>
BERG	<i>Sieben frühe Lieder~</i>
COPLAND	<i>12 Poems of Emily Dickenson~</i>
DEBUSSY	<i>Fêtes galantes I</i> <i>Quatre chansons de jeunesse</i>
FAURÉ	<i>Chanson d'Ève</i>
HEGGIE	<i>Rise and Fall</i>
OBRADORS	<i>Canciones populares</i>
POULENC	<i>Fiançailles pour rire</i>
PROKOFIEV	<i>Cinq poèmes d'Anna Akhmatova, Op. 25</i>
RODRIGO	<i>Cuatro amatorios madrigales</i>
ROSSINI	<i>La regata veneziana~</i>
SCHUMANN	<i>Frauenliebe und -leben</i>
STRAUSS	<i>Brentano Lieder, Nos. 1,2,3,4~</i> <i>Drei Lieder der Ophelia</i>
WOLF	<i>Italienisches Liederbuch</i> <i>Mignon Lieder</i>