

# PITTSBURGH OPERA

## Pittsburgh Opera 2009-2010 Resident Artists



### **LINDSAY AMMANN, MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Lindsay Ammann is a first-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist. In the 2009-10 season she will sing the roles of Olga in *Eugene Onegin*, Dame Quickly in *Falstaff*, Lucretia in *The Rape of Lucretia* and Marcellina in *The Marriage of Figaro*. She has sung the roles of Page of Herodias in *Salome* and covered Samira in *The Ghosts of Versailles* in the summer of 2009, plus Kate Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly* and covered Antonia's Mother in *Tales of Hoffmann* summer 2008, all with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. Also in 2008, Ammann sang the roles of Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and 3<sup>rd</sup> Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*. Ammann has many competition wins including: National Semi-Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions 2007, Finalist in the HGO Eleanor McCollum Competition 2009 and an Encouragement Award in the Lissner Foundation Competition 2009. As a Masters student at Indiana University, Ammann was an Associate Instructor of Voice and continues her studies with Costanza Cuccaro. While at IU, she was seen as Dame Doleful in *Too Many Sopranos*, Maddelena in *Rigoletto*, Nettie Sloan and Aunt Bea in the collegiate premier of Bolcom's *A Wedding*, Alto Soloist in Verdi's *Requiem* with the Oratorio Chorus & Philharmonic Orchestra and Cornelia in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*. She received her Bachelors from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and studied with Cheryl Koch.

Discover Yourself  
2009-2010  
Season



### **NOAH BAETGE, TENOR**

Noah Baetge is a first-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist and will sing Remendado in *Carmen*. A native of the Puget Sound, Washington area, Mr. Baetge made his debut at Skagit Opera in 2005 as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*. Later that season he was called upon to perform Basilio in a concert version of *The Marriage of Figaro* with the Yakima Symphony Orchestra. The next season, after competing in the MONC Seattle District and winning First Place, Mr. Baetge moved on to win First Honorable Mention at the MONC Northwest Regional Finals. Also that season he participated in Tacoma Opera's Next Generation Artist Program, performing Guido in the one-act Offenbach opera *The Cat Who Turned into a Woman* and the Young Gypsy in Rachmaninoff's *Aleko* with Concert Opera of Seattle and the Eastside Symphony. A member of the Seattle Opera Chorus starting with *Parsifal* in 2004, Baetge performed with the chorus for the majority of the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons. In 2006 he made his Seattle Opera Debut as the Tierhändler in Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* and was in the Seattle Opera Young Artist Program during the 2006-07 season.

# PITTSBURGH OPERA



## **KATHERINE DRAGO, MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Katherine Drago is a third-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist. She is slated to perform Meg Page in *Falstaff*, Bianca in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Mercedes in *Carmen* and Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro* Student Matinee in the 2009-10 season. Most recently, she performed the role of Zulma in *The Italian Girl in Algiers*; in the 2007-08 season she appeared as Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, the Stewardess in *Flight* and Romeo in the Student Matinee performance of *The Capulets and the Montagues*. She recently debuted in the role of Ottavia in *The Coronation of Poppea* with Opera Vivente. She spent summer 2008 and Summer 2009 as an Apprentice Artist with The Santa Fe Opera, where she covered Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*. Ms. Drago holds a Master's degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University. Other credits include: Broadway National Tour of *The Phantom of the Opera*; Marquise de Merteuil in *The Dangerous Liaisons* (CCM); Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* (Rising Star Opera Theater); Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* (Milwaukee Opera Theater); Venere in *The Coronation of Poppea* and French Mother in *Death in Venice* (Chicago Opera Theater); In concert she has appeared with the Asheville and Cheyenne symphonies, Peninsula Music Festival, Erie Philharmonic and Chatham Baroque. She has twice been a regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Discover Yourself  
2009-2010  
Season



## **JAMES FLORA, TENOR**

Tenor James Flora is a first-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist and will sing Fenton in *Falstaff* and Dancairo in *Carmen*. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from The Ohio State University and a Master of Music in Voice Performance from Florida State University, where he sang Orpheus in *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Mayor in *Albert Herring* and The Man in the world premiere of *The Art*. He worked with GRAMMY® Award-winning artists Janice Harsanyi and John Corigliano, and GRAMMY® nominee Stanford Olsen while at Florida State University. Mr. Flora was a Young American Artist at Glimmerglass Opera in Summer 2009, where he covered Gastone in *La Traviata*. At Arizona Opera in the past two seasons, Mr. Flora performed the role of Nemorino in the School Tour performances of *The Mini Elixir of Love* and appeared on the main stage as Spoletta in *Tosca*. Other mainstage assignments included covering the roles of Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*, Nemorino in *The Elixir of Love* and Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*. He also performed several small roles and understudied leading tenor roles in productions of *Die Fledermaus*, *The Magic Flute* and *La Traviata*. He made his Arizona Opera debut as Malcolm in *Macbeth* and performed as Elder Gleaton in *Susannah*.

# PITTSBURGH OPERA



## DAN KEMPSON, BARITONE

Baritone Dan Kempson is a first-year Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist; he will sing Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Morales in *Carmen* and Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* Student Matinee. He graduated with his Masters of Music from Manhattan School of Music in May 2009.

Performances there included Gabriel von Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, George Jones in *Street Scene*, soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Ronaldo Cabral in the NY premiere of John Musto's *Later the Same Evening*, a

recording of which will be released on Albany Records. Mr. Kempson received his Bachelors of Music in 2007 from Peabody Conservatory, where his roles included Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Carl-Magnus in *A Little Night Music*. Other previous performances include Belcore (cover) in *The Elixir of Love* with the Caramoor Festival, Papageno in *The Magic Flute* at the Seagle Music Colony, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* and John Brooke in *Little Women* with Intermezzo Opera Festival and *Carmina Burana* with the Yale Symphony Orchestra, Connecticut Master Chorale and New Choral Society of Scarsdale. Among his awards are the 2007 Encouragement Award from Opera Index, Inc.; Winner of 2009 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Boston District, Semifinalist in the 2009 Eleanor McCollum Competition of Houston Grand Opera and Finalist in the 2008 competitions of both the Oratorio Society of New York and Liederkrantz Foundation.

Discover Yourself  
2009-2010  
Season



## SHANNON KESSLER, SOPRANO

Shannon Kessler is a first-year Resident Artist with Pittsburgh Opera and will sing Nannetta in *Falstaff*, Lucia in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Frasquita in *Carmen* and Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* Student Matinee. Her most recent operatic credits include Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* and Clorinda in *La Cenerentola* with Utah Opera. Other operatic credits include Susanna in *Marriage of Figaro*, Beth in *Little Women* and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*.

Concert credits include soprano solos in *The Messiah* and *Peer Gynt* with Utah Symphony and the Brahms Requiem solo with her undergraduate alumni, Webster University Symphony, in St. Louis. She was the Utah District winner of the Metropolitan Opera Council Competition and received an Encouragement Award at the Regional level. Ms. Kessler is an avid recitalist, with French repertoire closest to her heart. The highlight of her recital career was a performance on *Live from the St. Louis Botanical Gardens 99.1* with selections from Debussy's *Ariettes Oubliées*, live on the radio. Mrs. Kessler's education includes two Master's degrees from New England Conservatory of Music, and participating in apprentice programs at The Santa Fe Opera, Utah Opera, Tulsa Opera and Ash Lawn Opera Festival.

# PITTSBURGH OPERA



## LIAM MORAN, BASS

Liam Moran is a third-year resident artist with Pittsburgh Opera in 2009-10. He is slated to sing the roles of Zaretsky in *Eugene Onegin*, Collatinus in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Zuniga in *Carmen* and Antonio in *The Marriage of Figaro*. In the 2008-09 season, he sang The Old Hebrew in *Samson & Dalila*, the title role in *Don Pasquale* and Colline in *La bohème*. In 2007-08, he appeared as The Bonze in *Madama Butterfly*, appearing subsequently as Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love* Behind the Curtain, the Immigration Officer in *Flight*, the King in *Aida* and Capellio in *The Capulets & the Montagues* Student Matinee. In summer 2008, he returned to Wolf Trap Opera for Melisso in *Alcina*, Truffaldino in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and excerpts from *Fidelio*. His previous roles there include Zuniga in *Carmen*, the Speaker in *The Magic Flute* and Siroco in *L'étoile*. He has also performed with Florida Grand Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Glimmerglass Opera, San Francisco Opera's Merola Program and Opera Omaha. His concert work ranges from Monteverdi to Penderecki and he has been featured with the National Symphony, Washington Concert Opera, the Palm Beach Symphony, the New World Symphony's "Concerts in Context" series, the Los Angeles Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra and several recital series. A prize winner in the Florida Grand Opera Competition and Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions/New England region, Mr. Moran completed his studies at McGill University in Montreal and the Yale School of Music.

Discover Yourself  
2009-2010  
Season



## DANIELLE PASTIN, SOPRANO

A second-year Resident Artist in 2009-10, soprano Danielle Pastin will sing Female Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia* and the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* Student Matinee. Ms. Pastin made her Pittsburgh Opera mainstage debut as Rosasharn in *The Grapes of Wrath* and sang Mimi in the *La bohème* Student Matinee. Having grown up in a Navy family that traveled and lived in many places, Ms. Pastin claims Annapolis, Maryland as her home. She received her Bachelor's in voice/opera from the University of Maryland in 2002 and has since then been a member of various resident artist programs, including Central City Opera, where she played Lucinda in the world premiere of Henry Mollicone's opera *Gabriel's Daughter* and the Intermezzo Opera Festival Training Program, where she performed Nannetta in *Falstaff*. At Capital Opera in Harrisburg, PA, Ms. Pastin has sung Nedda in *Pagliacci* and Annina in *La Traviata*. Her awards include Finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council regional competition and the National Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Competition, as well as the Audience Choice award at the Annapolis Opera Competition. She received the Fine Arts Fellowship award from Central City Opera and the Enrico Aloï Bronze Medallion of the Rosa Ponselle Foundation.