

MONICA YUNUS

Soprano

Praised as "especially winning" (The New York Times) with "a delectably pure sound" (Opera News), Soprano Monica Yunus thrills audiences in concert, recital, and on the operatic stage. A high-energy performer with an innate devotion to character, she has been commended for her "rich and sensuous voice [that] was utterly captivating" (Charleston City Paper). As a principal artist on the roster of The Metropolitan Opera for 10 seasons, Ms. Yunus made her critically acclaimed debut as Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, conducted by James Levine. She has since performed with the company in new and standard productions ranging from *The Enchanted Island* to *Le Comte Ory*, from *Die Zauberflöte* to *Manon*, and *Don Giovanni*, to name a few.

During the 2015-2016 season, Ms. Yunus sang the role of Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* with Opera Santa Barbara, performed with Bryn Terfel and Joseph Calleja at The Zouk Mikael International Festival, and Andrea Bocelli at Teatro Del Silenzio. Additional appearances included special performances at the UBS Global Philanthropy Summit in St. Moritz, and the opening performance of the new Steinway Hall in New York City. During the 2016-2017 season the soprano will join the Memphis Opera as Susanna in their production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* and the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra in concert. Future seasons include leading roles with Opera Colorado, among others.

Her many roles include Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* which she has sung with The Metropolitan Opera, The Spoleto Festival, Austin Lyric Opera, Anchorage Opera and PortOpera, and both Susanna and the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Other roles for which she has received critical acclaim include Norina in *Don Pasquale* (Syracuse Opera, Opera Memphis), Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* (Palm Beach Opera, Nashville Opera), Gilda in *Rigoletto* (Granite State Opera), Adele in *Die Fledermaus* (Nashville Opera), Oscar in *Un Ballo in Maschera* (Washington National Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Schwerin Staatstheatre), Zémire in *Zémire et Azor* (Arizona Opera), and Countess Olga in *Fedora* (Palm Beach Opera). Ms. Yunus has continued to receive praise for her concert and recital appearances with Plácido Domingo at The Jordan Festival in Amman, Jordan, and the opening of The Al Bustan International Festival of Music and Arts in Beirut, Lebanon. Other concert engagements include performances with the Syracuse Symphony and New Choral Society as the soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, the North American premiere of Zandonai's *La Farsa Amorosa* with Teatro Grattacielo and the soprano soloist in the World Premiere of Bob Aldridge's *Parables* with The Topeka Symphony. She can be seen and heard in several HD productions recorded live from The Metropolitan Opera and available on DVD: *La Rondine*, *Le Comte Ory*, and *The Enchanted Island*.

Ms. Yunus, who earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Juilliard School, has been honored to give special performances at The United Nations, the Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit, and has received a 2009 DOHA 21st Century

Leader Award in the category of Outstanding Humanitarian, and most recently, The Mentors International Award as Outstanding Humanitarian.

She is the Co-Founder of Sing for Hope (www.singforhope.org), a non-profit organization that mobilizes professional artists in volunteer service to benefit communities in need and presents projects - such as NYC's summertime Sing for Hope Pianos - that make art available to all. She is a term member on the Council on Foreign Relations and a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, Class of 2016. Born in Chittagong, Bangladesh and raised in New Jersey, Ms. Yunus is the daughter of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus.