

The Birth of Christ ~ Soloists

Jessica Robins Milanese, Lyric Coloratura Soprano, is a magnetic performer who brings a natural, grounded depth to her characters and is known for her sense of humor both on and off the stage. Praised by the Seattle Times as a singer “*vocally vibrant and admirably graceful...even under fire,*” she is a versatile artist, comfortable on the opera, concert, musical theater and even puppet theater stage. Most recently, Jessica performed the roles of Héro (Béatrice et Bénédicte), Blonde (Die Entführung aus dem Serail) and Lucy (The Telephone) all with Tacoma Opera. Other roles include Norina (Don Pasquale), Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro), Marie (Daughter of the Regiment) and Zerlina (Don Giovanni). On the concert stage, Jessica has performed as a soloist with the Bremerton Symphony, Orchestra Seattle, Northwest Sinfonietta, the Yakima Symphony and the Olympia Chamber Orchestra. For a more complete resume, visit her artist’s page at www.thebirthofchrist.org.



Sarah Mattox, Mezzo Soprano, has appeared in roles with Seattle Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Tacoma Opera, Palm Beach Opera and several others. Some of her favorite roles include Hansel in Hansel and Gretel, the Mother in Amahl and the Night Visitors, Octavia in Coronation of Poppea, Feodor in Boris Gudunov and the title role of Massenet’s Cendrillon. The Seattle Times said of her performance as Cendrillon, “*Sarah Mattox was both affecting and effective in the title role, with a polished and stylish performance,*” As guest artist with the Seattle Symphony she has sung Aaron Copeland’s Eight Poems of Emily Dickenson and the mezzo-soprano solos for Beethoven’s Symphony No.9 and Schumann’s Das Paradies und die Peri. In 2006 Ms. Mattox originated the role of Elizabeth in Andrew T. Miller’s *The Birth of Christ*. For a more complete resume, visit her artist’s page at www.thebirthofchrist.org.



Robert McPherson, Tenor, makes his return to the Northwest after joining the roster of The Metropolitan Opera for their 2006-2007 season. After the new year, Mr. McPherson makes two important New York debuts. He will perform the demanding role of Rodrigo in Rossini’s *La Donna Del Lago* with New York City Opera, then make his Carnegie Hall debut as Iago in Rossini’s *Otello* with Opera Orchestra of New York. Mr. McPherson’s impressive resume includes roles such as Belfiore (Il Viaggio a Reims), Eric (Nosferatu), Don Ramiro (Cenerentola), and Lindoro (L’Italiana in Algeri) with the Washington National Opera. The Washington Post wrote, “*Robert McPherson - as Lindoro, brought a clear, confident voice and a deft comic touch to the role. He navigated Rossini’s daunting pyrotechnics with style and finesse.*” Mr. McPherson joined the US contingent who filmed Andrew T. Miller’s *The Birth of Christ* for nationwide distribution and PBS airing during the Christmas Holiday Season in 2007. A more complete listing of Mr. McPherson’s many performances can be found on his artist’s page at www.thebirthofchrist.org.



John B. Cooper, Baritone, features a repertoire in a wide range of styles has given him a reputation as a dynamic and versatile artist. One of his true passions is the opera stage. He started his opera career as a resident artist at Portland Opera, going on to perform in main stage productions. Some of his favorites include such roles as Marcello in La Boheme, Danilo in The Merry Widow, Don Giovanni in Don Giovanni, The Father in Hansen and Gretel, Valentine in Faust, Frank in Die Fledermaus and Figaro in The Barber of Seville. Mr. Cooper has also performed extensively in musical theater including shows at Seattle’s 5th Avenue Theatre. A Northwest favorite, he has sung the National Anthem at more than fifty Seattle Mariners games over the last four years. Mr. Cooper joined the US contingent who filmed Andrew T. Miller’s *The Birth of Christ* for nationwide distribution and PBS airing during the Christmas Holiday Season in 2007. A more complete listing of his accomplishments can be found on his artist’s page at www.thebirthofchrist.org.



Soloists not pictured: Baritone, Daniel Oakden; Tenor II, James Walters