

***Eliza Johnson*** CANADIAN / AMERICAN SOPRANO CAEA / AGMA age:26

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**BIOGRAPHY**

Canadian/American Soprano Eliza Johnson's recent performances of excerpts from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and *Rigoletto* in the 2015 COC Center Stage Competition, were praised for exemplifying "that special mix of technical mastery and emotional oomph that only the best performances have – control and vulnerability, studiousness and rawness" (Lydia Perovic, *Definitely the Opera*). On the operatic stage, Eliza's recent Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*, Highlands Opera Studio) was praised by Opera Canada for being "delightfully coquettish and vocally sparkling" (Dawn Martens, OC).

Eliza was the 2015 First Prize winner of prestigious Brian Law Opera Competition and in September of 2015, she sang as a finalist in auditions for the Ryan Opera Centre at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Under the mentorship of Maestro Stephen Lord, Eliza was Opera Theatre of Saint Louis's first-ever Richard Gaddes Festival Artist in their 2015 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, appearing as Berta in *The Barber of Seville* and covering Pulcheria in Handel's *Richard the Lionhart*. Eliza's sassy Berta was "a riot" (Chris Gibson, *Broadway World*) and receiving mention in *Opera Magazine*; "Berta's engaging aria has the potential to brighten Act 2, and so it did in Eliza Johnson's spirited performance." While in St. Louis, Eliza appeared as Mrs. Fiorentino (*Street Scene*) and Antonia (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) in their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Center Stage concert (06/15). In Eliza's first season with OTSL (2014) she covered the role of Adina in *The Elixir of Love* and appeared as Seour Valantine *The Dialogues of the Carmelites*.

Eliza's appeared as Pamina in *The Magic Flute* with Opera Lyra Ottawa's Opera Studio (2014), and as Despina (*Così fan tutte*), Lucy (*The Telephone*), Rob Ford's Mother (*Rob Ford: The Opera*), Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*), Governess (*The Turn of the Screw*), and in excerpts as Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Marzelline (*Fidelio*), Cleopatra (*Giulio Cesare*), and Violetta (*La Traviata*) with the University of Toronto Opera School.

Her concert appearances include Beethoven's *Mass in C* (University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra), *Exultate, Jubilate!* (Stratford Symphony Orchestra), and appearances with Stratford Summer Music and Salon 21 with Soundstreams International. In 2009, Eliza released her debut album, *Eliza Sings Rodgers and Hart*, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Mr. William Francis.

Eliza is a member of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association and the American Guild of Musical Artists.