

Biography of Melissa Shippen

Soprano **Melissa Shippen** was heard as Mařenka in the 2005 Juilliard Opera Center production of *The Bartered Bride* under Maestro Mark Stringer. She has been rewarded the 2005-6 American Berlin Opera Foundation Scholarship; As a recipient, she will be singing roles with the prestigious Deutsche Oper Berlin this upcoming season. Her roles include: First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*, Suor Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica*. She will also cover Mimi under maestro Daniel Oren, and *Faust's* Marguerite. In 2004, Melissa sang the role of Lia in the NYC premiere of Debussy's *L'enfant prodigue* under Maestro Yves Abel. She received the 2003 Culture Award from the American Scandinavian Society at the United Nations. Ms. Shippen won the Orpheus National Music Competition and was named a winner at the Palm Beach Opera Vocal Competition in 2002. She made her professional opera debut with the Palm Beach Opera Company as Antonia in *The Tales of Hoffmann* in 2003, and returned in the 2004 season as Blanche in *Les Dialogues des Carmelites*. She sang Mimi in *La Boheme* with the Aspen Opera Theater in 2003 under Maestro Julius Rudel. The following year, she sang the role at the Filene Center of Wolf-Trap with the National Symphony Orchestra under Maestro Stephen Lord. She also was a solo artist on a French Soiree song concert with Steven Blier at the Barns of Wolf-Trap in 2004.

Ms. Shippen made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2001 as the soprano soloist in Mahler's Symphony 2, *The Resurrection* under Maestro Jahja Ling. She returned to Carnegie in 2003 as the soloist in Britten's *War Requiem* under Maestro David Atherton, where the *New York Times* favorably reviewed her as "a dramatic soprano with an attractive, powerful sound." This January she sang as part of the Marilyn Horne Foundation masterclass series for Deborah Voigt at Carnegie's Zankel Hall. She also performed on the prestigious Leontyne Price masterclass at Juilliard. Melissa received her Master and Bachelor of Music degrees in Vocal Performance from The Juilliard School.

As a winner of the Juilliard Vocal Honors Recital in 2001 and 2003, Melissa sang at Alice Tully Hall, and has since returned to sing for the "Wednesdays at One" concerts. She won the Grand Prize at the 2000 Di Panni Bel Canto Vocal Scholarship Competition, and while studying in Austria that year on a Bori Grant, she won the International Schloss Leopoldskron Vocal Competition. She also won the Donna Reed Vocal Scholarship, was a Level I Winner at the NFAA-ARTS Competition, and sang in concert at the Kennedy Center after being named a United States Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

In previous summers, Melissa has been heard in concert and opera engagements at Chautauqua and with The Berkshire Opera Company's Young Artist Development Program, where she worked under Maestro Joel Revzen. Her operatic roles have included: Laurie in Copland's *The Tenderland*, Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Manon in Massenet's *Manon*, Suzel of Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz*, Magda in Puccini's *La Rondine*, Marguerite in Gounod's *Faust*, and Ino in Handel's *Semele*.

Her oratorio experience includes performances as the soloist in: Handel's *Messiah*, Schubert's *Mass in G*, Stravinsky's *Mass*, and the Fauré *Requiem*. She has coached and worked in master classes with such artists as James Conlon, Fedora Barbieri, Rudolph Piernay, Helen Donath, Martina Arroyo, Barbara Honn, Brian Zeger, and Warren Jones. Melissa is a native of Clarksville, Tennessee.