

SARAH KLEEMAN

The young American mezzo-soprano is rapidly becoming known for her beautiful voice, intelligent musicianship, and spirited stage portrayals. San Francisco Classical Voice has hailed her "ringing, assertive and luxuriant tone". This summer Ms. Kleeman was celebrated by the Denver Post as "compelling in the pathos of her character" as Charlotte in Central City Opera's production of *A Little Night Music*. Opera News Magazine said that she "summoned up appropriate comic bile and timing, showing fine vocal control."

This March Ms Kleeman will make her Kansas City musical theater debut as Kate/Lilli in Musical Theater Heritage's production of *Kiss me Kate*. Ms. Kleeman recently sang the role of Cherubio in *Le nozze di Figaro* with San Luis Obispo's Pacific Repertory Opera and repeated the role last spring at Sacramento Opera. In March 2008 she made her Chateauville Foundation debut under the baton of New York Philharmonic's Lorin Maazel as Mrs. Trapes in *The Beggar's Opera*. At the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival she sang the title role in the world premiere of *Nocciolina* and Lynne in *A Grand Night for Singing*. That Fall Ms. Kleeman was one of four soloists that included Broadway veterans Michael Cerveris, Darius DeHaas and Carol Woods in *Lyrics by W. Shakespeare*, an evening presided over by former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. In the summer of 2007 Ms. Kleeman made her Central City Opera debut as Dorothee in Massenet's *Cendrillon*. In the 2003-2004 season she was a Resident Artist with Pittsburgh Opera, where her roles included Penelope in *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, and Mercedes in *Carmen*. In summer of 2004 she sang Siebel in *Faust* with Chautauqua Opera. She repeated that role in 2005 in her return to Pittsburgh Opera.

Ms. Kleeman has performed Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* with the San Francisco Opera Merola Program, Clotilde in *Norma* with Seattle Opera, Eduige in *Rodelinda* with Music Academy of the West and Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* with Guild Opera of Los Angeles. With the Seattle Opera Young Artist Program she sang Tisbe in *La Cenerentola* and performed/recorded the Second Lady in *The Magic Flute*. Other roles she has performed on stage include the title role in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Dinah in *Trouble in Tahiti*.

Sarah Kleeman is a graduate of California State University, Northridge (Bachelor of Music) and is the recipient of numerous awards and competitions, including the Carol Vaness Award, the Glendale Symphony Competition and the Henry and Maria Holt Memorial Scholarship.