

VANESSA NAGHDI,

SOPRANO

Vanessa Naghdi is a young Persian-American soprano originally from the Washington, D.C. area. This season, Ms. Naghdi makes her international debut as Cleopatra with Opéra Queens. She also covers Arsinoë in the world premiere of Cleopatra Built with the company. Last season, Ms. Naghdi covered the role of Marie in *La fille du régiment* with St. Petersburg Opera Company. She also sang in the *Bella Voce Gala, Broadway Cabaret*, for Opera at The Dalí Museum, and the St. Petersburg Opera Guild. Ms. Naghdi also performed with *Mixtape Recital Series* this past season. Past seasons saw her perform the role of Flora in *La Traviata* with MassOpera and create the role of Linda in the premiere of *Reap What You Soul* with Promenade Opera Project. Ms. Naghdi was also a Resident Artist with Sparrow Live for their inaugural group of performers, and was the Soprano Soloist in Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the Newburyport Choral Society. She also performed operatic favorites for *Sunday Funday* with River City Opera and love songs and duets for *Love Travels the World* with Bel Cantanti Opera. Ms. Naghdi sang in the premiere of *The Ritual of Breath is the Rite to Resist*, a co-commission by Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth College and Stanford Live at Stanford University. She competed as a finalist in Opera Connecticut's American Opera Idol Competition, which she stepped into with less than 12 hours' notice. Ms. Naghdi also stepped in for her signature role of Nannetta in *Falstaff* with Social Distance Opera. Upcoming engagements include singing *Exsultate, jubilate* with Salem Philharmonic Orchestra, performing with Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, and collaborating on a curated program entitled *My Lifelong Love of Song*.

Ms. Naghdi was recently an Artist in Residence with Opera Colorado. While in Denver, she reprised her role of Nannetta in *Falstaff*. She created the role of Mrs. Soep and covered Ina Soep in the world premiere of the opera *Steal a Pencil for Me*. Ms. Naghdi also performed the roles of Adina in *The Elixir of Love* and Clorinda in *Cinderella* (touring productions) and covered the role of Musetta in *La bohème* with the company. Recently, Ms. Naghdi returned to Arizona Opera and performed the roles of Pamina and 1st Lady in *The Mini-Magic Flute* (touring production). She also debuted the role of Tormentilla in a concert version of *The Poisoned Kiss* (Vaughan Williams) with *Passion Project: Opera!* Canceled engagements due to Covid-19 include performing as the Soprano Soloist in excerpts from Mozart's *Requiem*, and performing *The Foreign Princess in Rusalka* with Promenade Opera Project as well as in POP's Annual Gala. Past seasons have seen Ms. Naghdi in the title role of *Rusalka: The Littlest Mermaid* (touring) with Arizona Opera. She made her debut as *Amy March in Little Women* with Nightingale Opera Theatre. Ms. Naghdi created the title role in the world premiere of the chamber opera *Mignon* by William Clay with Arizona Chamber Opera. Also with Arizona Opera, she performed a concert version of *Brundibár* as Sparrow and Baker. She has also portrayed *Suor Genovieffa* in *Suor Angelica* and *Solo Angel* in *Die Jungfrau von Orléans* with the Mittelsächsisches Theater and Philharmonic. Ms. Naghdi has also performed the title character in *Amelia al ballo* and *Belinda* in *Dido and Aeneas*, among others.

An avid musical theater performer, Ms. Naghdi performed the role of Liat with Annapolis Opera in their production of *South Pacific*. She debuted in creating the role of Lady Helen in the premiere of the musical *Spellbound!* with Southwest Shakespeare Company. Ms. Naghdi also created the role of Diane Slawyer in the premiere of the new musical *Endangered!* at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As an experienced concert artist, Ms. Naghdi was the Soprano Soloist in excerpts from *Messiah* as well as the Soprano Soloist in Rutter's *Magnificat* with the Valley Presbyterian Church Concert Series. She performed as a soloist with the Washington Women's Chorus Concert Series at the Strathmore Music Center. Additionally, Ms. Naghdi has been the Soprano Soloist in Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, for Bach cantata *Der Herr denket an uns, BWV 196*, and with the Mittelsächsisches Theater and Philharmonic for their *Bergstadtfest Concert* in Freiberg, Germany. Ms. Naghdi has received the Opportunity Fund from the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture and the City of Boston. She has been awarded by the Dorothy Lincoln Smith Voice Competition, The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Houston, and won Second Place in The American Prize in Vocal Performance (Opera, University Division). Ms. Naghdi holds a Master of Music in Opera Performance from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University.

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OPERATIC REPERTOIRE

Adamo:

Amy March – *Little Women*

Bellini:

Giulietta – *I Capuleti ed i Montecchi*

Bohmler:

Bess Erne – *Riders of the Purple Sage*

Britten:

Tytannia – *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Cipullo:

Young Alyce – *Glory Denied*

Clay:

Mignon – *Mignon*

Cohen:

Ina Soep, Mrs. Soep – *Steal a Pencil for Me*

Copland:

Laurie Moss – *The Tender Land*

Donizetti:

Adina – *L'elisir d'amore*

Marie – *La fille du régiment*

Norina – *Don Pasquale*

Flagello:

Linda – *Reap What You Soul*

Gluck:

Euridice – *Orfeo ed Euridice*

Eurydice – *Orphée et Eurydice*

Golijov:

Margarita Xirgu, Nuria – *Ainadamar*

Handel:

Cleopatra – *Giulio Cesare*

Galatea – *Acis and Galatea*

Morgana – *Alcina*

Semele – *Semele*

Humperdinck:

Gretel, Dew Fairy – *Hansel und Gretel*

Krása:

Sparrow – *Brundibár*

Massenet:

Manon – *Manon*

Sophie – *Werther*

Menotti:

Amelia – *Amelia al ballo*

Laetitia – *The Old Maid and the Thief*

Monica – *The Medium*

Moore:

Elizabeth "Baby" Doe – *The Ballad of Baby Doe*

Mozart:

Blonde – *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*

Despina – *Così fan tutte*

Ilia – *Idomeneo*

Mlle. Silberklang – *Der Schauspieldirektor*

Pamina, 1st Lady, Papagena – *Die Zauberflöte*

Sandrina – *La finta giardiniera*

Servilia – *La Clemenza di Tito*

Susanna, Barbarina – *Le nozze di Figaro*

Zerlina – *Don Giovanni*

Offenbach:

La Périchole, Guadalupe – *La Périchole*

Pergolesi:

Serpina – *La serva padrona*

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OPERATIC REPERTOIRE (Cont.)

Puccini:

Lauretta – *Gianni Schicchi*
Musetta – *La bohème*
Suor Genovieffa – *Suor Angelica*

Purcell:

Belinda – *Dido and Aeneas*

Rossini:

Clorinda – *La Cenerentola*

Strauss, J.

Adele – *Die Fledermaus*

Strauss, R.

Sophie – *Der Rosenkavalier*

Stravinsky:

Anne Trulove – *The Rake's Progress*

Sullivan:

Josephine – *H.M.S. Pinafore*
Mabel – *The Pirates of Penzance*
Yum-Yum – *The Mikado*

Tchaikovsky:

Solo Angel – *Die Jungfrau von Orléans*

Ullmann:

Bubikopf – *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*

Vaughan Williams:

Tormentilla – *The Poisoned Kiss*

Verdi:

Annina, Flora – *La traviata*
Nannetta – *Falstaff*
Oscar – *Un ballo in maschera*

Weill:

Rose Murrant – *Street Scene*

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ORCHESTRAL/ORATORIO REPERTOIRE

Bach:

Der Herr denket an uns
Magnificat
St. John Passion
St. Matthew Passion

Brahms:

Requiem

Britten:

A Ceremony of Carols

Carissimi:

Jephthe

Fauré:

Requiem

Handel:

Messiah
Joshua

Haydn:

The Creation

Mendelssohn:

Elijah

Mozart:

Requiem
Coronation Mass
Exsultate
Mass in C Minor
Vesperae solennes de confessore

Orff:

Carmina Burana

Poulenc:

Gloria

Rutter:

Magnificat

Verdi:

Requiem

Vivaldi:

Gloria

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CONDUCTORS

Adam Turner
Ari Pelto
Christy Lee
Craig Kier
Daniel Myssyk
Daniel P. Ryan
Dr. William Reber

Jan Horstmann
John Simmons
Kamna Gupta
Mark Sforzini
Robert Moody
Ronald J. Gretz
Ryan Turner

OPERA HOUSES/THEATERS

Annapolis Opera
Arizona Chamber Opera
Arizona Musicfest
Opera Colorado
Arizona Opera
Bel Cantanti Opera
Grand Canyon Music Festival
MassOpera
Mittelsächsisches Theater

Nightingale Opera Theatre
Passion Project: Opera!
Palladium Theater St. Petersburg
Promenade Opera Project
River City Opera
Hopkins Center for the Arts
Atlas Performing Arts Center
Jeunesses Musicales du Canada
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

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