

# ERINA NEWKIRK – Biography

Acclaimed for her versatility, musicianship and acting ability, Erina Newkirk's operatic and concert repertoire embraces works from the Baroque Period to premiering Contemporary Operas and Song Cycles. She has sung with opera companies, festivals and symphonies throughout the United States and Europe. She has performed leading roles and as concert soloist with companies such as Opera North, Lancaster Festival, Opera San Jose, Marin Symphony, Ottocento Festival Saludecio, American Philharmonic, Townsend Opera, Island City Opera, Livermore Valley Opera, Delaware Valley Opera, Baroque Orchestra Festival, Long Leaf Opera Festival, Montefeltro Festival, Old First Concerts, Marin Oratorio, San Francisco Opera Guild, New York Opera Studio, Opera Project Columbus, Il Teatro Sociale di Novafeltria, Villa Sinfonia, Sonic Harvest, Golden Gate Opera, Pocket Opera, Lamplighters Music Theatre, Cinnabar Opera, West Marin Music Festival, Berkeley Opera, and Oakland Opera.

Ms. Newkirk has recently performed Mimi in *La Boheme* and Gilda (cover) in *Rigoletto* for Island City Opera, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* and Morgana in *Alcina* for Pocket Opera, Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* for Golden Gate Opera, and Violetta in *La Traviata*, Micaëla in *Carmen*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Marguerite in *Faust*, and Sophie in *Werther* for Verismo Opera.

Having a special affinity for French music, she recently went to Southern France to work intensively with internationally acclaimed tenor and expert in French Style, Michele Sénéchal. While there, she performed as one of the featured soloists for the L'Art du Chant Français Concerts at Château de Lanquais.

Her career has consistently involved premiering and recording new works. Recent performances and premieres of new works include Ann Callaway's *The Spirit of the Moth*, Laurence Rosenthal's *Songs to the Beloved*, Nonnie in Chandler Carter's *Strange Fruit* and Sonora in Ann Callaway's *Vladimir in Butterfly Country*. Recent recordings of new works include Shamhat in Laurence Rosenthal's *Gilgamesh* and Charmaine in Matthew Owens' *City of Saint Francis*.

Scholarships Ms. Newkirk has been awarded include the Marin Symphony Scholarship, the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation Scholarship for Exceptional Artists, the New York Opera Studio Scholarship, the Italian Cultural Institute Cultural for Study Abroad Scholarship, the W.E.B. Dubois Fellowship for two consecutive years, and the Opera in The Ozarks Most Outstanding Colleague Award.

Awards Ms. Newkirk has received include First Place in The Marin Symphony Scholarship Competition, First Place in the Art Song Division of The National Association of Teachers and Singing, Third Place in Metropolitan Opera Competition – Pacific Region, Second Place in the Leontyne Price National Competition, National finalist for Orlando Opera's Refuss Competition for Singing Actors, and Third Place in National Society of Arts and Letters.