

Ilah Raleigh, Mezzo-Soprano

Mezzo-soprano Ilah Raleigh's talent for languages and passion for other cultures has propelled her into a career in opera and recital. Her easy high notes and natural coloratura ability, coupled with an attractive stage presence and gift for comedy, make her a natural for the operas of Mozart and Rossini.

One of fourteen national finalists for the Heinz Rehfuss Singing Actor Awards in 2006, Ms. Raleigh assumes the role of Resident Artist at the Orlando Opera Company in Fall 2006. She will perform in several of their productions during the following year, including **Second Lady** and **Papagena** (*The Magic Flute* - Outreach) and **Kate Pinkerton** (*Madame Butterfly*).

Earlier in 2006, Ms. Raleigh performed the comic pants roles of the gullible **Don Ettore** (*La Canterina*) and the temperamental **Musico** (*Le convenienze teatrali*) with the Opera Theater of Northern Virginia. Other recent operatic appearances include the lovesick goddess **Diana** (*La Calisto*) with Ignoti dei Opera, **Mrs. Nolan** (*The Medium*) for Municipal Opera Company of Baltimore, and **La Cayetana**, the strong matriarch of Hector Armienta's contemporary American opera *Rio de Mujeres*, with Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute in San Francisco, CA.

While completing her post-graduate studies at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland, Ms. Raleigh explored a diverse range of eras and styles including **Zita** (*Gianni Schicchi*), **Rosina** (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), and **Mrs. Peachum** in Kurt Weill's *The Three Penny Opera*.

Ms. Raleigh also researches and performs contemporary works by modern composers. In November 2004, she performed in the Baltimore premiere of Ned Rorem's thought-provoking chamber piece *The Evidence of Things Not Seen*. In 2004-05, she premiered and recorded *Apollo's Journey*, Jeremy Irish' song cycle for mezzo-soprano and piano based on the brooding poetry of Emily Brontë.

In recital, Ms. Raleigh is a passionate supporter of African-American, Latin American, and Spanish composers. She has performed several recitals in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, including giving recitals in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. In Maryland, she has performing on the Music at Noon Series at the Academy Art Museum in Easton, Maryland and two performance series in Baltimore, Maryland: An die Musik Live! Concert Series and Peabody Conservatory's Thursday Noon Recital Series.

A native of Minneapolis, MD, she studied Italian language, culture and history in Milan, Italy, from 1998 to 2000 where the Italian mezzo-soprano Giulietta Simionato accepted Ms. Raleigh as a private student. She holds a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Peabody Conservatory and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in Italian Studies (BA) from the University of Minnesota.