

# Marion Newman

## MEZZO SOPRANO

First Nations mezzo-soprano Marion Newman "has a distinctive, dusky voice that suggests drama with every note" (Toronto Star) and has been noted as "a show stealer" (BBC Music Magazine). In her debut with Cork's Opera 2005 in the title role of Carmen, she was widely praised for her "superbly sinuous sexuality" and "as a very exciting new talent" by the Irish Examiner. She returned to Cork to appear as Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and has appeared as Margret in *Wozzeck* and Juno in *The Tempest* with Pacific Opera Victoria, Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* with Vancouver Opera, Cherubino and Cinderella for Opera Lyra Ottawa and Hansel for Opera Hamilton .

Performances in the 2010 season include Tisbé in Pacific Opera Victoria's production of *La Cenerentola*, the lead role of Noodin-Kwe in the world premiere run of *Giiwedín*, a first Nations opera by Spy Dénoimé-Welch and Catherine Magowan, and *Thunderbird*, an Aradia Ensemble concert in which traditional Kwagiulth dance and song meet the Baroque era, featuring a new work by talented young Canadian composer Dustin Peters.

Highlights of Marion's most recent seasons include the roles of Flora in Verdi's *La Traviata* and Cherubino in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Sulmona, Italy as part of the C.O.S.I. programme. International appearances include performances in the Czech Republic and Germany as Don Ramiro in Mozart's *Die Gärtnerin Aus Liebe* and Ericlea in *Il Ritorno di Ulisse*. Marion also sang the roles of Zita and La Zia Principessa in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica* in Italy. As part of the Banff Centre new music programme, she toured France with Richard Dubelski's *What's Goin' On* and in 2004 she traveled to Lithuania with the ERGO ensemble to perform at the Is Arti New Music Festival.

On the concert stage, Marion has performed with the Victoria Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, National Ballet of Canada, Portland Baroque Orchestra, CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble, San Francisco Conservatory Orchestra, Kingston Symphony, Symphony Nova Scotia, Elora Festival Singers, Talisker Players, Bell'Arte Singers, Aradia Ensemble, Toronto Philharmonia, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, St Lawrence Choir, Fanshawe Chorus London and the Sooke Philharmonic. Her extensive repertoire includes Handel's *Messiah*, the Mozart *Requiem*, *Coronation Mass* and *Davidde Penitente*, Copland's *In The Beginning*, Bach's *St. John Passion*, *Magnificat*, and *Cantata no. 4*.

Marion has also demonstrated her "luscious mezzo soprano voice and captivating vivacity" on television, having been featured four times as a soloist on CBC's *National Aboriginal Achievement Awards*, and opening the 2002 *Royal Golden Jubilee Gala* at Roy Thomson Hall, where she performed the National Anthem with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir before Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Marion's discography includes five discs with the Aradia Ensemble for Naxos: *Polly* by Samuel Arnold, *Sacred Music* by Vivaldi, and *Griselda*, also by Vivaldi, Handel's *Rinaldo* and Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit pour Noel* and *Te Deum*. As well, she recorded *Sea Change* featured in the contemporary work *Brush Strokes* by Linda C. Smith, with Continuum Contemporary Music and Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Bach's *Cantata no. 4* with the CapriCCio Ensemble for Virga Recordings.

Marion made her orchestral debut at the age of sixteen with the Victoria Symphony, not as a singer, but as a pianist, performing Mozart's *Piano Concerto K. 488 in A Major*. She holds a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the University of Victoria and a Master of Music with Distinction in vocal performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She is the recipient of a Career Development Grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

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