

Suzanne Kilgore, Soprano

Biography

Spring 2009

Soprano Suzanne Kilgore made her European debut in 2000 with Opera Theatre of Lucca as Ruggiero in Handel's *Alcina*. She performed the lead role of Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Hippolyta from Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Bianca in Puccini's *La Rondine*. Ms. Kilgore's operatic repertoire includes the title role of *Tosca*, Fiordiligi from *Così fan tutte*, Leonora in *Il Trovatore* and Idamante from Mozart's *Idomeneo*.

Last year, Suzanne was one of many featured soloists in Opera Lirica Italiana's "Opera with a Cause" Concert that was in collaboration with Borderless Song. It was a fundraising event for the YWCA Women's Shelter. This concert included highlights from Opera Lirica Italiana's present and upcoming seasons.

In 2008 - 2007, Ms. Kilgore performed the lead role of Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with OLI and sang in chorus ensemble during their production of *Madama Butterfly*. In a collaboration with Canadian composer Penelope Walcott, Ms. Kilgore premiered *Augettes of Innocence* (written for voice, piano, clarinet and violin). She also sang in Walcott's *Pleasant Life in Newfoundland* and *The Sleepy Quartet* for soprano, tenor, baritone and string quartet.

In the 2006 "Operatic Gems" series, Ms. Kilgore was one of the featured soloists presenting excerpts from Verdi's opera *Aida* and *Ernani*. Last May, she collaborated with soprano Giovanna Carini in an opera aria concert dubbed "Sopranos and the City." Suzanne sang lieder by Schubert and Brahms at the Canadian Foundation for Infectious Diseases fundraising concert "Roar up Kilimanjaro" in July.

In 2005, Ms. Kilgore was invited to perform arias with the series "Opera & More!" which was performed at York Wood Library. This event involved the youth from the surrounding community, giving them a chance to learn about opera, and then collaborate to make their own musical project that was then performed in the other half of the performance. Suzanne also sang a fundraising concert in honour of the Ermano Mauro Performance Studio. She has performed Handel's *Messiah* with the Moredale String Quartet, the Chamber Singers of Algoma and the Sault Saint Marie Chamber Orchestra. Other works performed include pieces by Ives, Copland and Finzi.

Ms. Kilgore was a finalist in the Anton Guadagno International Palm Beach Opera Competition in 2003. She has won numerous awards in Canada and has performed at vocal workshops throughout the United States and Europe.

Suzanne began singing at the age of thirteen. She attended the Glenn Gould Professional School at the Royal Conservatory of Music as a scholarship student, where she performed Handel's *Messiah* and J.S. Bach's *Magnificat in D Major* with the RCM Orchestra. Ms. Kilgore is a graduate of the Opera Performance Program at the University of Toronto, receiving the COWC Past President's Scholarship two years in a row. She is known for her broad vocal range as well as the rich quality of her voice.

Suzanne is also an accomplished cook, writer and film aficionado. She currently resides in Toronto with her cat, Scully.