

STAGE DOOR
JANA McINTYRE

The soprano Jana McIntyre is graceful and elegant with a bright, flexible voice that has served her well in roles ranging from Semele to Tytania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Adele in *Die Fledermaus*.

She grew up in Santa Barbara, California, and fell in love with music as a child: 'My parents joke that my first love was Fats Domino singing "Blueberry Hill",' she tells me. She had her first piano lesson on her sixth birthday and began voice lessons in sixth grade.

Her 'enchanted path' to a career began with a caring high school voice teacher who 'opened the door in a safe manner'—assigning her mostly art songs and folk songs, along with two arias: 'Deh vieni non tardar' and 'V'adoro pupille'. She attended college at UCLA with a double-major in music (studying voice with Michael Dean) and psychology ('which helped me in the opera industry—and with diving into characters').

After earning a Master's degree in vocal performance at the Manhattan School of Music—where she polished her vocal technique with Joan Patenaude-Yarnell—she won awards from the Giulio Gari, George London and Gerda Lissner foundations, and was a finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. It was at the Met last December that McIntyre scored a much-talked-about triumph when, as a cover for Lisette

Oropesa, she performed Elvira at the dress rehearsal of *I puritani*. 'It was so exciting! Elvira was a role I had highlighted and studied on my own in 2013,' she says. In March she'll return to the Met to cover Manon.

She's had a busy summer, playing Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance* ('channeling my Julie Andrews and Kathryn Grayson') at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis before assuming two roles at Bard SummerScape: Aithra in Richard Strauss's *Die ägyptische Helena* and Constanze in Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*—'a role that's been on my dream list for a while. It's filled with huge leaps, but Constanze also has an inner strength.' REBECCA PALLER



This month's rising artist

Jana McIntyre is Aithra in *Die ägyptische Helena*, July 24 to August 2, and Constanze in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, August 16, at Bard SummerScape. fishercenter.bard.edu