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Jennifer Larmore, Mezzo-Soprano

Jennifer Larmore is an outstanding American mezzo-soprano who has parlayed operatic success in Europe into international stardom. Known for excelling in the coloratura roles of the Baroque and bel canto, she has also added Romantic and Contemporary repertoire. Since the beginning of her career, Jennifer Larmore has recorded widely for the Teldec, RCA, Harmonia Mundi, Deutsch Grammophon, Arabesque, Opera Rara, Bayer, Naive, Chandos, VAI and Cedille labels in over seventy CDs to date, which has earned her the distinction of being the most recorded mezzo of all time.

Originally from Atlanta, Larmore studied with Dr. Robert McIver at the Westminster Choir College of Princeton, New Jersey and then privately with John Bullock and Regina Resnik. She made her professional debut in the l'Opera de Nice production of Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* in 1986. During the same period, Jennifer sang her first Rosina from the *Barber of Seville* in the Jerome Savary production of Strasbourg -- appropriate, considering that Rosina became her signature role...one that she has performed more than five hundred times! Her vocal talents, energetic acting, and natural beauty quickly established her as an emerging star and during the next decade she performed dozens of leading roles with major European houses to include the prestigious theaters of Paris, Vienna, London, Edinburgh, Rome, Berlin, Madrid, Barcelona, Lisbon, Brussels, Amsterdam, Geneva, Milan, Buenos Aires and Salzburg.

In 1994 Larmore returned to the United States in a triumphant Carnegie Hall appearance as Romeo in Bellini's *I Capuletti e I Montecchi* with the Opera Orchestra of New York and Eve Queler. This success was followed by winning the prestigious Richard Tucker award that same year, and a debut as Rosina at the Metropolitan Opera in 1995. Following that success she became a regular attraction at the Met, singing a wide range from Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, Rossini's, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *La Cenerentola*, and *l'Italiana in Algeri*, Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, to the world premiere of Tobias Picker's *An American Tragedy*, and the upcoming *Hamlet* of Thomas.

With her frequent collaborator Antoine Palloc, she has made several International recital tours, including appearances in Amsterdam, Paris, Madrid, Hong Kong, Seoul, Tokyo, Vienna, London, San Juan, Prague, Melbourne, Brussels, Berlin, Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon, Sao Paolo, Athens and Copenhagen, as well as all the major American venues.

Symphonic repertoire plays a large role in this mezzo's career with the works of Mahler, Schoenberg, Mozart, de Falla, Debussy, Berlioz and Barber featuring prominently. World orchestras under the direction of Muti, Lopez-Cobos, Bernstein, Runnicles, Sinopoli, Masur, von Dochnanyi, Jacobs, Mackarras, Spinosi, Guidarini, Kalmar, Rudel, Barenboim, Queler, Bonyngge, Maazel, Osawa and many others have fallen under Miss Larmore's spell.

Jennifer Larmore's *Giulio Cesare* on Harmonia Mundi received the Gramophone Award for Best Baroque Opera of the year. Among her seven Grammy nominations, titles include "L'Etoile," a collection of French opera arias; "Call Me Mister," a celebration of mezzo - soprano trouser roles; "Amore per Rossini," a trove of Rossini rarities - some never before recorded; "My Native Land," a gathering of songs by American composers; "Where Shall I Fly," featuring Handel and Mozart arias; "Bravura Diva," a marvelous collection of rare bel canto masterworks; "Jennifer Larmore in Performance," a companion CD to the popular DVD from Video Artists International (VAI); "Jennifer Larmore, A Portrait," a collection of early works from the Renaissance and Baroque

periods; and "Born In Atlanta," a CD of varied operatic and concert selections released to commemorate Miss Larmore's appearance at the Closing Ceremonies of the 1996 Atlanta Olympic games. For Cedille she recorded four blockbuster pieces for Mezzo by Berlioz, Barber, Britten and Ravel for a CD aptly entitled "Royal Mezzo," over a two year period in live concert with Carlos Kalmer and the Grant Park Festival orchestra. Her newest CD is a highlights recording of Rossini's "L'Italiana in Algeri" for Chandos with Brad Cohen conducting. Among the dozens of full operatic recordings are the title roles of Carmen, Elisabetta, Regina d'Inghilterra, La Cenerentola, L'Italiana in Algeri, Bianca e Falliero, Orphée, Giulio Cesare, Sofanisba and I Capulet e I Montechhi.

In 2004, Jennifer Larmore was the honored guest soloist in Washington, DC at the 35th Anniversary Celebration of the landing on the Moon by the Apollo 11 astronauts. A particularly unique venture was her satellite radio program, "Backstage With Jennifer Larmore," on which she proved herself to be a witty and insightful interviewer and commentator. In addition to her hosting many international airline Classical Listening programs, Miss Larmore is widely sought after to give Master Classes in prestigious national and international venues. She has appeared in numerous publications including, VOGUE, DOG FANCY with her miniature schnauzer Sophie, OPERA NEWS, the English OPERA, the French OPERA INTERNATIONAL, the German VOGUE and MAX, as well on a variety of television programs around the world including, Good Morning America, Breakfast With the Arts, the Classical Arts Showcase, the German Klassich, the French Jacques Martin and A cote du Chez Fred, as well as Musique au coeur; And for the UPN Network, The 30th Anniversary STAR TREK Celebration.

In 2002, Madame Larmore was endowed with Knighthood by the French Government carrying the title Chevalier des arts et des lettres in recognition of her contributions to the world of music.

Jennifer Larmore's upcoming schedule takes her to Madrid and the Paris Bastille for the Countess Geschwitz in Berg's *Lulu* which she debuted in June 2009 to great success at Covent Garden in the Christof Loy production with Tony Pappano; to the Metropolitan Opera as Gerturde in Thomas' *Hamlet*; to Brussels La Monnaie as Dulcinee in Massenet's *Don Quichotte*; to Berlin Deutsche Oper for Kostelnichka in Janacek's *Jenufa*; to the Theatre an der Wien for the Messagiera in Monteverdi's *Orfeo*; to Frankfurt Opera for Cornelia in the Baritone version of *Giulio Cesare*; to Alice Tully Hall in New York for Rossini's *La Petite Messe Solennelle*; to Munich for *L'Enfance du Christ* with Charles Dutoit; for recitals and master classes in Stresa, Italy, Athens, Georgia, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Lakeland, Florida. Miss Larmore, in collaboration with the violinist Sebastian Hamann and the double bass player Davide Vittone has created a new ensemble called Jennifer Larmore and OpusFive. This is a wonderful collaboration between string quintet and voice. They will be giving concerts throughout Europe for 2009-2010.

In humanitarian efforts, Miss Larmore's charity of choice has been the American Fund for UNICEF. Her focus is to raise awareness of the plight of under privileged children and she often speaks and sings in this worthy cause. In addition to her many activities, travels, performances and causes, author Jennifer Larmore is working on books that will bring a wider public to the love of opera!