

## Colleen Skull, Soprano

Soprano Colleen Skull has appeared with opera companies and orchestras across the country, including the Canadian Opera Company, Manitoba Opera, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Esprit Orchestra, Highlands Opera Studio, and many others. Described as having “real talent, boasting a voluptuous, weighty voice that oozes out of her” (*Winnipeg Free Press*), Ms Skull is a distinguished graduate of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio. Operatic roles include Wellgunde in *Gotterdammerung*, Waltraute in *Die Walküre*, Alice Ford in *Falstaff*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Agatha in *Der Freischütz*, Jocasta in *Oedipus Rex*, Lisa in *Pique Dame*, Liu in *Turandot*, Marina in *Boris Godunov*, and the title roles in *La Voix Humaine* and *Jenůfa*.

Currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate in Voice Performance at the University of Toronto, Ms Skull recently won the Graduate Award from the International Symposium on Performance Science, at which she presented a keynote presentation; *Sustained excellence: Toward a model of factors sustaining elite performance in opera*, with a publication now available. Later this year she will present her research at the 52nd National NATS conference in Orlando, Florida. Recent and upcoming performances include a recital at the *Thursday at Noon Series* as the DMA recital competition winner at the University of Toronto. She has also won many awards and prizes including the Metropolitan Opera District Competition and a Chalmers Award, and has been generously funded by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Ms. Skull has recently been appointed the Director of the Highlands Opera Studio Community School providing vocal instruction to singers in the community as the beginning of a much greater local education initiative to spread the understanding of the many facets involved in performing, producing and presenting opera.