

JUDITH SKINNER

Contralto



Judith Skinner possesses a true contralto voice of power and beauty. Her performances as Ulrica in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Erda in *Das Rheingold* conducted by Richard Woitech, Mama Lucia in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Mrs. Winthrop in *The Secret Garden* and Tituba in *The Crucible*, have all been enthusiastically praised by audiences and opera cognoscenti.

This past season she made her *début* with **The Royal Danish Opera** in an unprecedented 30 sold out performances as Maria in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* directed by John Doyle. In the 2012-2013 season Judith made her European *débuts* with the **Center for Contemporary Opera** in Szeged, Hungary and Avignon, France in the award winning role of Victoria in William Mayers *Death in the Family*. *Over the years she has performed leading roles with Atlanta Opera, Dayton Opera, Opera Memphis, Fresno Grand Opera, Utah Festival Opera, Toledo Opera, Indianapolis Opera, and Opera San José.*

On the concert stage, Ms. Skinner has appeared as soloist in *Elijah* by Mendelssohn, in Bellevue Washington, Mozart Requiem with the Bronx Symphony, an "Evening of World Premieres" with the Riverside Opera Ensemble performing *Simples* composed by Stephen Dembski, and as soloist in Elgar's *Sea Pictures Symphony* with the New York Symphonic Arts Ensemble.

As a Resident Artist with **Opera Memphis** she sang the role of the Mother in *Les Contes d' Hoffmann* and created the role of Harriet Tubman in *She Never Lost a Passenger*. She also sang the role of Betty in Michael Ching's opera *FAITH* in New York and Chicago. Other New York appearances have included Magdelone in Nielsen's *Maskerade*, Marceline (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), La Principessa (*Suor Angelica*) and Baba in *The Medium*, perhaps her best-known role to date which she reprised with **Chelsea Opera** last season to rave reviews.. Other unique opera roles include the Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas*, the Mayor in *The Happy Prince*, and Maurya in *Riders to the Sea*.

Of her Baba in *The Medium* critic Steven Jude Tietjen stated: "Judith Skinner triumphs as Madame Flora. Her voice is that of a true, organ-like contralto. With her, one cannot really talk of "chest voice" as her impressively sensuous instrument is a miraculous extension of her speech."

Ms. Skinner has been recognized with many distinctions including awards from the prestigious **Leontyne Price Vocal Competition**.

She received her undergraduate degree in Voice-Opera from **The University of the Arts** and studied drama at **Carnegie-Mellon University**.