



## **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.

In the 2016 - 2017 season she made her début with **The Glimmerglass Festival** as Maria in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* as well as Aunt Eller in Hammerstein's *Oklahoma*. In previous seasons débuts were made with **The Royal Danish Opera** in an unprecedented 30 sold out performances as Maria in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* directed by John Doyle. She 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 Jose**.

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 Elgars *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 de 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 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**.