

CHERRY DUKE

mezzo-soprano



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Dispeker Artists

212-421-7676 | info@dispeker.com | www.dispeker.com

Updated Thursday, May 02, 2013

CHERRY DUKE

mezzo-soprano

biography

American mezzo-soprano Cherry Duke 'is a singer who communicates both the music and the text impeccably.' Her 'striking voice-acting and stage movement' is especially evident in her performances of leading roles such as Giasone, Nerone in *The Coronation of Poppea*, Jo March in Adamo's *Little Women* and Lucretia in *The Rape of Lucretia*. As Carmen, 'Duke brings an exciting combination of sexiness and intelligence to French opera's greatest femme fatale.' Cherry has also sung the title roles in *Hansel and Gretel* and *Der Rosenkavalier* as well as leading roles in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Falstaff*, *Rigoletto*, *The Mikado*, *La Traviata*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and *The Love for Three Oranges*, to name a few. Cherry has performed many roles with New York City Opera and traveled with them to Japan for *Little Women* and *Madama Butterfly*. **Recently she portrayed the title role in Opera Omnia's presentation of Cavalli's *Giasone* at Le Poisson Rouge in New York.**



Miss Duke is frequently involved in cross-over and brand-new works. As a soloist in several seasons of New York City Opera's *VOX* concerts, she has sung a variety of styles, including roles in Scott Davenport Richards' jazz opera, *Charlie Crosses the Nation* and Gordon Beeferman's micro-tonal *Ratland*. At Bard's SummerScape Festival and Joe's Pub she was featured in Carl Hancock Rux and Diedre Murray's 'cabaret opera,' *The Blackamoor Angel*. Miss Duke also thrives in classic musical theater, having played Nellie Forbush in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific* with **Ash Lawn Opera Festival**. Cherry's growing list of world premiere performances include Vavrek and Little's acclaimed *Dog Days*, Vandenburg and Sherman's *Ada*, Light & Salerni's *The Life and Love of Joe Coogan*, Brevoort and Cohen's *Steal a Pencil for Me* and McClatchy and Dellaira's *The Secret Agent* (in NYC, Hungary and France). **In 2013, she debuted with Indiana Repertory Theater as Mrs. Segstrom in *A Little Night Music*** and was featured on Opera America's 'New Works Sampler' concert at the North American conference in Vancouver.

As a concert soloist, Cherry Duke has been a featured soloist with orchestras at major venues such as Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. Her repertoire includes Falla's *El Amor Brujo*, Bach's *B-Minor Mass*, *St. John's Passion* and *Weihnachts-Oratorium*, Beethoven's *Mass in C* and *Choral Fantasy*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, several Haydn masses, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Vesperes Solennes* and *Grand Mass in C*, Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, Vaughan-Williams' *Magnificat*, Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio* and of course, Händel's *Messiah*, as well as orchestral "Pops" concerts. **Concerts in the 2012-13 season included a Gala Opera Highlights evening with the Johnstown Symphony, *Messiah* at Avery Fisher Hall, and *Messiah, St. Matthew Passion* and *'A Spiritual Messiah'* with the 132nd Annual Messiah Festival in Lindborg, Kansas.** Upcoming engagements include 'Opera's Greatest Moments' with Missouri Symphony and guest artist and voice faculty at Bay View Music Festival.

Miss Duke is the recipient of many awards including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (New York District), Grand Prize in the Connecticut Opera Guild Young Artist Competition and the Liederkranz Foundation Voice Competition.

Miss Duke, a Texas native, graduated *summa cum laude* from Texas Woman's University where she studied with prolific vocal textbook author Joan Wall. She received her graduate degree in Opera Performance from The Hartt School at the University of Hartford. Cherry Duke now resides in New York City.



CHERRY DUKE

mezzo-soprano

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OPERA & MUSICAL THEATER (partial listing)

<i>Faust (Act 2)</i> (7/13)	Siebel	Bay View Music Festival Faculty Concert	
<i>Steal A Pencil For Me</i> (Cohen) (4/13)	Lisette	Shaarei Tikvah, Jewish Theological Seminary	Ari Pelto
<i>Dog Days</i> (Little) (9/12)	Soldier	Beth Morrison Projects	Alan Pierson
<i>La traviata</i> (7/12)	Flora	Queens Symphony Orchestra	Constantine Kitsopoulos
<i>Giasone</i> (Cavalli) (8/11)	Jason/Giasone	Opera Omnia	Avi Stein
<i>The Secret Agent</i> (Dellaira) (2011, 12)	Lady Olive	Center for Contemporary Opera L'opera theatre d'Avignon, France Szedeg National Theater, Hungary	Sara Jobin
<i>Maren of Vardø</i> (Myers) (6/11)	Maren	Yale Institute of Music Theater	Robert Treviño
<i>Ada</i> (Sherman)	Lady Byron	Center for Contemporary Opera	Kimberly Grigsby
<i>VOX: Three Weeks</i> (Gal) (5/11)	Martha	New York City Opera Orchestra	Robert Treviño
<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Suzuki	New York City Opera* New York City Opera (Japan Tour)* Asociación Bel Canto (Lima, Perú)	Ari Pelto A. Yamada L. Arner
<i>Carmen</i>	Carmen Carmen Mercédès (in concert)	St. Petersburg Opera Opera Theater of Connecticut New Jersey Symphony Orchestra	M. Sforzini G. Whisler G. Manahan
<i>Hänsel und Gretel</i>	Hansel	Nevada Opera Chautauqua Opera Maine Grand Opera Virginia Opera ‡	M. Borowitz S. Lano J. Hymes-Bianchi J. Shannon
<i>Die Fledermaus</i>	Prince Orlofsky	Chautauqua Opera* Irving Light Opera, Inwood Opera	
<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Second Lady Third Lady	Connecticut Opera Prism Opera	R. Ashens G. Keast
<i>Little Women</i> (Adamo)	Jo March	New York City Opera (Japan Tour)* Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music Ash Lawn Opera Festival	G. Manahan M. Alsop C. Larkin
<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>	Octavian (in concert)	Dell'Arte Opera Ensemble	C. Fecteau
<i>Falstaff</i>	Meg Page	Opera Omaha	H. France
<i>L'incoronazione di Poppea</i>	Nero	Opera Omnia (New York, NY)	A. Stein
<i>The Rape of Lucretia</i>	Lucretia	New York Chamber Opera	L. Arner
<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Cherubino	Helena Symphony Orchestra (Helena, MT)	A. R. Scott
<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Rosina	Helena Symphony Orchestra (Helena, MT)	A. R. Scott
<i>L'italiana in Algeri</i>	Zulma	Glimmerglass Opera	G. Manahan
<i>La traviata</i>	Flora (in concert)	New Jersey Symphony Orchestra	G. Manahan
<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Alisa	Connecticut Opera	R. Ashens
<i>Intermezzo</i> (R. Strauss)	Anna*, Notary's Wife*	New York City Opera	G. Manahan
<i>L'enfant et les sortilèges</i>	Bat, Bergère	New York City Opera	G. Manahan
<i>Lysistrata</i> (Adamo)	Megaera/ Arete*	New York City Opera	G. Manahan
<i>The Love for Three Oranges</i>	Smeraldina	New York City Opera	G. Manahan
<i>L'etoile</i>	Aloès*	New York City Opera	R. McAdams
<i>Ein Walzertraum</i> (O. Straus)	Friederike	Liederkrantz Opera	J. Balme
<i>The Mikado</i>	Pitti-Sing	Deep Ellum Opera (Dallas, TX)	
<i>The Medium</i>	Mrs. Nolan	Opera North	L. Burkot

Premiere * Cover/Understudy ‡ Education/Outreach Tour

(Continued on next page.)

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MUSICAL THEATER / CROSS-OVER***A Little Night Music* (2/13)***Life and Love of Joe Coogan*#*South Pacific**The Blackamoor Angel* (D. Murray)*The Rose Project* (D. Murray)*Charlie Crosses the Nation* (Richards)*Anything Cole!**The New Moon***Mrs. Segstrom****Sally Rogers****Nellie Forbush****Countess/Gypsy****Rose****Clarice****Soloist/Dancer****Ensemble & Recording****Indiana Repertory Theatre**

Lehigh University (PA)

Ash Lawn Opera Festival

Bard SummerScape Festival, Joe's Pub

The Flea Theater, Music-Theater Group

NYCO Vox Concert

Chautauqua Opera Cabaret

City Center Encores! (NYC)

Ray Fellman

P. Salerni (composer)

D. Martin, M. Slon

J. DiPinto

J. DiPinto

G. Steichen

M. Trawka

R. Fisher

AWARDS & HONORS

Grand Prize Winner

Prize Winner

Prize Winner

Connecticut Opera Young Artist Competition

Metropolitan Opera National Council New York District Auditions

Liederkranz Foundation Voice Competition

STAGE DIRECTORS (partial listing)

Dean Anthony, Christopher Alden, Frank Corsaro, Lawrence Edelson, Bill Fabris, Beth Greenberg, David Grabarkewitz, Sam Helfrich, Peter Kazaras, Crystal Manich, Christopher Mattaliano, Nathaniel Merchant, George Pinney, Lisa Rothe, Yuval Sharon, Ira Siff, Thaddeus Strassberger, Don Westwood, Robert Woodruff

COACHES (partial listing)

Michael Baitzer, Lynn Baker, Susan Caldwell, Mitchell Cirker, Chris Crans, Steven Crawford, Christopher Fecteau, Ray Fellman, Jennifer Hoppe, Rachelle Jonck, Bill Jones, Thomas Lausmann, Kathleen Kelly, Steven Mosteller, Kevin Murphy, Timothy Long, Susan Morton, Djordje Nestic, Curt Pajer, Carol Rausch, Pierre Vallet, Susan Woodruff

VOICE TEACHERS

Everett McCorvey, Shirley Love, Ruth Golden, Deborah Birnbaum, Elaine Bonazzi, Judy McLane, Claudia Waite, Trish McCaffrey, Joan Wall

TRAINING

Artist's Diploma

Bachelor of Science (*summa cum laude*)

Opera Performance

Vocal Performance

The Hartt School (University of Hartford)

Texas Woman's University

CHERRY DUKE

mezzo-soprano

reviews

CARMEN

'CARMEN' STAR CASTS A SEXY SPELL

"Duke brings an exciting combination of sexiness and intelligence to French opera's greatest femme fatale. In a way, Duke's performance on Friday felt not only fully lived but also like an astute commentary on her iconic character.

"Carmen's seduction of Don Jose...was sensationally rendered by Duke in the gypsy temptress' famous Habanera ("If I love you, watch out!") and then with slinky provocation in the seguidilla in which she did suggestive things with a rope. With her sharp-featured profile, Duke looked the part of the sultry spitfire, and her French had a throaty expressiveness in the card scene that foretells Carmen's death."

—John Fleming,
St. Petersburg Times

GIASONE (CAVALLI)

"The mezzo-soprano Cherry Duke offered a vivid portrayal of the lustful Jason."

—*The New York Times*

"Cherry Duke revealed a warm, dark mezzo in the trouser role of Giasone."

—*New York Post*

LUCRETIA: THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA

"The rich, beautiful voice and regal bearing of Cherry Duke made her Lucretia a memorable performance. Her poise and the intensity of her acting caused the entire audience to become increasingly involved in her plight. Here is a singing actress about whom we should hear more and more over the next few years."

—*OperaJamboree*

NERO: THE CORONATION OF POPPEA

"Cherry Duke's Nero was this Poppea's perfect match. Ms. Duke sang the music of this top-drawer historical creep with a regal bearing, even as he reveled in the destruction of his foes."

—Allan Kozinn, *The New York Times*



"Cherry Duke was an effective Nero, her voice blending exquisitely with Chinn's especially in the great closing duet. Duke played Nero's (troubled) masculinity with conviction and, like Chinn, did not overact Nero's unpleasant traits; she let the actions, words and music speak for themselves. In their musical assurance and beautifully understated acting **they were the finest Nero and Poppea I have encountered in the theatre.**"

—Mark Ringer, *Classics Today*

"Cherry Duke made a fine, unusually masculine Nerone... [Poppea's] final duet with Ms. Duke's Nerone was the perfect conclusion to waft us into the night in a cloud of erotic reverie: Ah yes, back in 1641, *this* is why opera caught on."

—John Yohalem, *Opera Today*



"Cherry Duke as Nerone and Hai-Ting Chinn as That Girl had a fascinating chemistry rooted in Ms. Duke's physical take on the role, **honestly about the most forget-what-you're-actually-seeing travesti turn I can think of just now.**"

—Maury D'Annato, *My Favorite Intermissions*

JO MARCH: LITTLE WOMEN

"Mezzo-soprano Cherry Duke was a standout as Jo. In a vital, shapely vocal performance, she caught both the character's headstrong determination and the reservoir of tenderness underlying it."

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Duke is a singer who communicates both the music and the text impeccably...it takes 'heroic diction' to do that and Duke surely has the helden-delivery."

—*San Francisco Classical Voice*

CHERRY DUKE

mezzo-soprano

reviews

"Duke was superb! She created a vibrant, strong-willed woman who knows her own mind and her own place in the world. Her singing proved crystal clear, beautifully consistent and always true to the meaning of the text. Her striking voice-acting and stage movement set a high standard for the entire work."

—*The Daily Progress*

HANSEL

"Hansel and Gretel, played respectively by Cherry Duke and Danielle Talamantes, infuse their characters with such playfulness that it's easy to believe they are children. Their voices also blend gloriously, placing their duets among the show's highlights."

—*Reno Gazette-Journal*

"Both [Cherry Duke as Hansel and Danielle Talamantes as Gretel] are excellent with clear, crystalline voices that play to the poignancy of Humperdinck's writing without forced theatricality or blurred vocal purity."

—*Jack Neal's Music Reviews*



SMERALDINA: THE LOVE FOR THREE ORANGES (NEW YORK CITY OPERA)

"Among the large and quite competent cast, standouts were Matthew Chellis...Linda Roark-Strummer...Kathryn Day and Eduardo Chama...and Cherry Duke as a cute and wily Smeraldina."

—*Opera News*

BACH'S B-MINOR MASS (HARTFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA)

"The most remarkable of the five [soloists] was mezzo Cherry Duke, who stepped in at the last minute...Duke learned the piece in a day or two, but her radiant, confident performance gave no hint of any of that."

—*The Hartford Courant*

KERN & FRIENDS CONCERT (CHAUTAUQUA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA)

"Mezzo-soprano Cherry Duke took command of [Climb Every Mountain] delivering its inspirational message with power."

—*The Chautauquan Daily*

SUZUKI: MADAMA BUTTERFLY

"Cherry Duke como Susuki [sic] y Alessandro Magno como Sharpless, revelaron ser cantantes profesionales completos, poseedores de notables condiciones, que contribuyeron al alto nivel logrado."

—*El Comercio* (Lima, Perú)

NELLIE FORBUSH: SOUTH PACIFIC

"Nellie Forbush, played by Cherry Duke, [was] spunky and exuberant and sang and danced her way into our hearts."

—*The Daily Progress*

PITTI-SING: THE MIKADO

"A wonderful bright spot throughout the show is Cherry Duke...She has a gorgeous alto voice, round and clear even in the lowest range. She has charm and strength without dominating, presence without a hint of strain."

—*The Dallas Observer*

OPERA IN BLUE JEANS CONCERT (NEVADA OPERA)

"[Cherry] Duke and [John] Pickle were magnetic duetting together projecting a radiant 'Almost Like Being in Love' to a large crowd of listeners so entranced they hoped it just might be true."

—*Jack Neal's Music Reviews*

MCCAMMON VOCAL COMPETITION

"Mezzo Cherry Duke recalled Anne Sofie von Otter with her reserved but passionate aria from Handel's *Giulio Cesare*..."

—*Fort Worth Weekly*

CHERRY DUKE

mezzo-soprano

repertoire

OPERA & MUSICAL THEATER

<u>role</u>	<u>opera</u>	<u>composer</u>
Jo March	<i>Little Women</i>	Adamo
Myrrhine	<i>Lysistrata</i>	Adamo
Dinah*	<i>Trouble in Tahiti</i>	Bernstein
Carmen, Mercedes	<i>Carmen</i>	Bizet
Lucretia	<i>The Rape of Lucretia</i>	Britten
Siebel*	<i>Faust</i>	Gounod
Sesto*	<i>Giulio Cesare</i>	Händel
Sister Helen Préjean*	<i>Dead Man Walking</i>	Heggie
Hänsel	<i>Hänsel und Gretel</i>	Humperdinck
The Captain	<i>Dog Days</i>	Little
Charlotte*	<i>Werther</i>	Massenet
Mother	<i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i>	Menotti
Secretary*	<i>The Consul</i>	Menotti
Nerone	<i>The Coronation of Poppea</i>	Monteverdi
Sesto*	<i>La clemenza di Tito</i>	Mozart
Dorabella	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Mozart
Donna Elvira*	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Mozart
Idamante*	<i>Idomeneo</i>	Mozart
Second Lady, Third Lady	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Mozart
Nicklausse/Muse*	<i>Les Contes d'Hoffmann</i>	Offenbach
Smeraldina	<i>The Love for Three Oranges</i>	Prokofiev
Kate*	<i>Kiss Me Kate</i>	Porter
Suzuki	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Puccini
Anna*	<i>The King and I</i>	Rodgers
Mother Superior*	<i>The Sound of Music</i>	Rodgers
Nellie Forbush	<i>South Pacific</i>	Rodgers
Isabella*	<i>L'italiana in Algeri</i>	Rossini
Mrs. Segstrom	<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Sondheim
Mrs. Lovett*	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Sondheim
Orlofsky	<i>Die Fledermaus</i>	J. Strauss, Jr.
Komponist*	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>	R. Strauss
Octavian	<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>	R. Strauss
Meg Page	<i>Falstaff</i>	Verdi
Flora	<i>La traviata</i>	Verdi

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repertoire

ORATORIO & CONCERT

Mass in B MinorBach
St. John's Passion.....Bach
St. Matthew's Passion.....Bach
Weihnachts-OratoriumBach
Choral FantasyBeethoven
Mass in C, Opus 86.....Beethoven
Arias & Barcarolles..... Bernstein
Quatre ChantsBoulanger, L.
Viola SongsBrahms
Te Deum.....Bruckner
Requiem..... Durufié
El amor brujo..... Falla
Siete canciones populares españolas Falla
Messiah.....Händel

Lord Nelson Mass (Missa in Angustiis)..... Haydn
Mass in Time of War (Paukenmesse)..... Haydn
Theresa Mass (Theresienmesse)..... Haydn
Requiem Jenkins
The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace Jenkins
Elijah Mendelssohn
Grand Mass in C..... Mozart
Solemn Vespers, K 339..... Mozart
Stabat Mater..... Rossini
Christmas OratorioSaint-Saëns
Mass in B-flat Schubert
Magnificat..... Vaughan-Williams

POPS CONCERTS

Frankie & Johnny(Moross)
Rodgers & Hammerstein Gala

Anything Cole! (Cole Porter Cabaret)
Jerome Kern & Friends

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“trouser roles”

“...Duke [has] mastered the art of masculine swagger.” (WQXR Radio)

“Cherry Duke made a fine, unusually masculine Nerone...” (*Opera Today*)

“Ms. Duke’s physical take on the role [was] honestly about the most forget-what-you’re-actually-seeing travesti turn I can think of just now.” (*My Favorite Intermissions*)

“...what a sensitive, inventive actor. She is a remarkably convincing boy! Fun to see that, from such a pretty girl.” (Anne Basinski, Stage Director, Helena Symphony Orchestra)

“Duke played Nero’s (troubled) masculinity with conviction...they were the finest Nero and Poppea I have encountered in the theatre.” (*Classics Today*)

“[Cherry Duke’s] reactions are honest and childlike... quelling any suspension of disbelief problems that can arise as woman plays man.” (*Denton Record-Chronicle*)



Giasone



Cherubino



Nerone



Hansel

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