

# Sarah Jane McMahon

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## Biography

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “bright, active, and fastidiously musical,” and by *Opera News* as having “a golden sound,” Sarah Jane McMahon is recognized for her “beautiful vocal sophistication” and “sparkling stage presence.” Recently, Sarah Jane sang Gala concerts opposite Placido Domingo and with The San Francisco Symphony, Munich Philharmonic, the Wiener Konzert Haus, Bremen’s *Die Glocke*, and the Santo Domingo Festival in The Dominican Republic. A frequent guest artist at New York City Opera, she performed Mabel in their new production of *The Pirates of Penzance* and was described by *The New York Times* as “the most polished and flexible singer in the cast” and “a deft comic actress.” She also received their coveted Kolozsvar Award for her performances as Galatea in Handel’s *Acis and Galatea*, and was lauded for her “silvery-voiced soprano” and “real star presence” in Purcell’s *King Arthur*.

Selected by Maestro Placido Domingo to join the Los Angeles Opera, she sang with the celebrated tenor as the Fifth Flower Maiden in *Parsifal*, Naiad in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and The Milliner in *Der Rosenkavalier*. Sarah Jane also has performed with Bard SummerScape Festival as Xanthe in Richard Strauss’ *Die Liebe der Danae* and Donna Clara, the Infanta, in Zemlinsky’s *Der Zwerg* for which *Opera News* wrote: “Sarah Jane McMahon laughed and danced as the glamorous Infanta, making a golden sound with an alluring light vibrato that evoked the young Pilar Lorengar.” She has also performed with the Washington Concert Opera as Dorinda in Handel’s *Orlando*, with Michigan Opera Theatre as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Lyric Opera of Kansas City as Yum-Yum in *The Mikado*, Virginia Opera as Adele in *Die Fledermaus* and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Arizona Opera as Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, Opera Grand Rapids as Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Maria in *West Side Story* and Micaela in *Carmen*, Opera Omaha as Fanny in *Il Cambiale di Matrimonio*, Toledo Opera as Violetta in *La Traviata*, Josephine in *HMS Pinafore* with both the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and San Antonio Opera, with Central City Opera as Maria in *West*

*Side Story*, Kathie in *The Student Prince*, Anne in *A Little Night Music*, and Lucia in *Rape of Lucretia*, with Chautauqua Opera as Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, with Des Moines Metro Opera as Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Lisette in *La Rondine*, and Abigail Williams in *The Crucible*, Opera Company of North Carolina and Mississippi Opera as Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Piedmont Opera as Clara in *The Light in the Piazza*, and Opera Theater of Connecticut as Violetta in *La Traviata* and Cleopatra in Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. Her roles with the New Orleans Opera include Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Micaela in *Carmen*, Valencienne in *The Merry Widow*, Musetta in *La Bohème*, Monica in *The Medium*, and Maria in *West Side Story*.

A summa cum laude graduate of Loyola University, New Orleans, and Yale University, concert appearances have included *Knoxville Summer of 1915/Mahler 4* with the Portland Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Amarillo Symphony, and Ridgefield Symphony, Christmas Concerts with The San Francisco Symphony, California Symphony and Shreveport Symphony, *Carmina Burana* at Avery Fisher Hall and with the Tulsa Opera and Ballet, the *Rutter Requiem* at Carnegie Hall, *Bravissimo!* with the Canadian Opera Orchestra, *Messiah* with the Jacksonville Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony, and Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, *Mahler 8* with the Asheville Symphony, Gala concerts with the Toledo Symphony, Sarasota Symphony and Youngstown Symphony, and Baroque concerts with Lyrica Baroque.

Upcoming engagements include: Micaela in *Carmen* with Opera Grand Rapids, Blanche in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with the Portland Symphony and Winston-Salem Symphony, Christmas concerts with The Jacksonville Symphony and Rochester Philharmonic, and Gala concerts with the Minnesota Orchestra and Cleveland Pops.

Sarah Jane lent her voice to an animated children's opera recorded in New York this summer, and recorded the title role in Kalman's *Sari*, available on Albany Records. She also has an album of sacred music entitled *I Thank My God*, dedicated to New Orleans and the survivors of Hurricane Katrina, a Christmas album, *Night of Silence*, and a newly released old standards album, *Blessings and Silver Linings*. [www.sarahjanemcmahon.com](http://www.sarahjanemcmahon.com)