

## **SASHA COOKE**

*mezzo-soprano*

American mezzo-soprano **SASHA COOKE**'s 2009-10 season includes performances as a soloist with the Colorado Symphony in Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with conductor Jeffery Kahane, the title role in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* with the San Francisco Symphony and conductor George Manaham, and appearances with the Aspen Festival Orchestra under the direction of David Zinman, SummerFest in La Jolla (CA), the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival, with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the New York Festival of Song, along with recitals at the Lied Center of Kansas, the Marilyn Horne Foundation (NY), the Cosmos Club (DC), Union College (NY), Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and her debuts with the Milwaukee, Seattle, Chicago, Kansas City, San Diego, and Modesto Symphonies. She will also sing the role of Meg in *Falstaff* with the Seattle Opera.

Last season, Ms. Cooke sang at the Metropolitan Opera in the role of Kitty Oppenheimer in the New York premiere of John Adams' *Doctor Atomic*, which she also performed with English National Opera in her European debut. She sang Handel's *Messiah* with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and with the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall and Bernstein's *Opening Prayer* with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under Marin Alsop. On April 14, 2009, Ms. Cooke was presented in the Young Concert Artists Gala Irene Diamond Concert at Lincoln Center, performing Elgar's *Sea Pictures* with the Orchestra of St. Luke's under Giancarlo Guerrero. In the summer of 2008, she appeared as Olga in Tchaikovsky's *Evgeny Onegin* with the Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv and participated in the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont. Ms. Cooke gave song recitals last season at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, The Embassy Series, at Merkin Concert Hall in NYC, and performed in the Fortas Chamber Music Series at the Kennedy Center and with the New York Festival of Song.

Ms. Cooke won First Prize in the 2007 Young Concert Artists International Auditions and holds the Lindemann Vocal Chair of YCA. She made her Washington, DC debut in the Young Concert Artists Series at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater in September 2007 and her New York debut at Carnegie's Zankel Hall in October 2007. Ms. Cooke is recent graduate of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program of the Metropolitan Opera.

Ms. Cooke performed with the Wolf Trap Opera Company in summer 2007, appearing with the National Symphony Orchestra as Mercedes in a concert performance of Bizet's *Carmen*, as Aloes in Chabrier's *L'Étoile*. Other recent notable performances have included the premiere performances of "Bastianello" by John Musto and William Bolcom's "Lucrezia" with the New York Festival of Song, a recital at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC, a performance at the Bard Music Festival, Chausson's

*Poème de l'amour et de la mer* at Miller Theater, the Marilyn Horne Foundation's 2007 Gala at Zankel Hall, Mozart's Mass in C Minor with the Mozart Academy of San Luis Obispo, and Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* with the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra (TX). Ms. Cooke participated in Seattle Opera's young artist program, as Meg Page in Verdi's *Falstaff*. She has also appeared as the Composer in Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Endimione in Cavalli's *La Calisto* at The Juilliard School, Charlotte in Massenet's *Werther* and Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at Rice University, and Erika in Barber's *Vanessa* with Central City Opera.

Ms. Cooke won First Prizes in the 2007 Sun Valley Opera Vocal Competition and the 2006 Bach Vocal Competition sponsored by the American Bach Society and The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, as well as Third Prize in the 2006 Licia Albanese-Puccini Competition.

Ms. Cooke received her Bachelor's Degree from Rice University and her Master's Degree from The Juilliard School, where she was a frequent soloist in premiere performances by the New Juilliard Ensemble. She has also attended Music Academy of the West, the Aspen Music Festival, the Ravinia Festival's Steans Institute, and Central City Opera's Young Artist Training Program.