

D'Anna Fortunato, Mezzo-Soprano

D'ANNA FORTUNATO, *Mezzo-Soprano*, Grammy nominated (2007) Mezzo-soprano, D'Anna Fortunato is widely considered to be one of America's premier Concert/Oratorio singers, while having established herself as a respected Operatic Artist as well. Recent and upcoming Symphony appearances include those with the *Nashville Symphony* (Stravinsky's **Les Noces**), *Boston Civic Symphony* (Elgar's **Sea Pictures**) and *The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra* (Berlioz, **Les Nuits d'Ete.**). *The Metro West Symphony* hosted Ms. Fortunato again as soloist in a Memorial Concert for American Composer Emeritus, Gardner Read, premiering Mr. Read's **4 Nocturnes**. Operatically, Fortunato reprised the role of **The Goddess** in Kurt Weill's **Johnny Johnson** with *the Boston Camerata* in a semi-staged performance for the Boston Celebrity Series, sang the role of Julia Child in a staged performance of Lee Hoiby's monologue, **Bon Appetit**, for *the Smithsonian Institute*, and in the Spring of 2006 was featured in the role of the Genevieve in Debussy's original version of **Pelleas et Melisande**, for Richard Conrad's *The Bostonians* to critical acclaim. Recently, Ms. Fortunato performed the role of Elka in a staged premiere of David Schiff's **Gimpel the Fool** in Portland, Oregon, for the New Music Ensemble, *Third Angle*. Ms. Fortunato has long championed composers past and present whose works she has premiered or rediscovered. Recently, she presented a lecture/recital of American Women's Music of the 20th and 21st Centuries for the NATS Convention in Minneapolis, MN, premiering Marilyn Ziffrin's : **For D'Anna**. Earlier in the year, newly released CD'S featuring Ms. Fortunato included the complete solo vocal works of Marilyn Ziffrin with Max Lifchitz, piano, released for North/South CD's, while the vocal works of Larry Bell on Arsis CD's received a release party and performance, with the composer at the piano. Jake Heggie's tour de force, **Anna Madrigal Remembers** had Ms. Fortunato in the solo role, with the *Boston Gay Men's Chorus*, while Andrew List continued to collaborate with Ms. Fortunato who premiered his solo Orchestral Work, **Atlantis**, with the *Metro-West Symphony*, and sang as soloist in a recent new Vocal Chamber work with the *Esterhazy String Quartet*, both in Boston, and on tour in, Missouri. Chamber Music assignments include those as a new member of the Early American Ensemble, *Columbia's Musick*, with an appearance at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and tours of Mississippi, Ohio, and Maryland and as a return guest artist with the ensemble, *Music at Eden's Edge*. For the past 9 summers, Ms. Fortunato has also been involved with the Young Artist Festival, **Songfest**, in Malibu, CA. teaching and performing.

Ms. Fortunato has been a repeat soloist with North America's finest Choral Organizations and Bach Festivals (*Bach Aria Group* member for 12 years and the Mezzo-Soprano Annual Soloist with the *American Schubert Institute* from 1991-2005), while she has performed with period instruments under the baton of Roger Norrington, and with such organizations as *the St. Lukes Chamber Orchestra*, *Boston Camerata*, *Boston Baroque*, and the *Handel and Haydn Society*. She has premiered numerous new works for such groups as *Speculum Musicum*, Houston's *Da Camera*, Boston's *Musica Viva*, and Berlin's *Spectrum Concerts*, and has been frequent visitor with such chamber organizations as *the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center*, *Boston Chamber Music Society*, (which awarded her a citation of merit), and *the Composer's String*

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Quartet (6 seasons). Festival appearances include those at *Tanglewood, Blossom, Casals, Marlboro, Pepsico Summerfare, The Rome Bach Festival, Rockport, Vaison-la-Romaine*, Holland's *Die Rote Hode*, and *Monadnock*. She has appeared as a soloist in concerts with top major symphony orchestras, including the *New York Philharmonic, The Boston Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, the New Japan Philharmonic, Ottawa's National Arts Center Orchestra*, and the orchestras of *Dallas, Houston, Minnesota, Cleveland, Rochester*, and *New Jersey*.

Recently released CD's include Schoenberg's **Gurrelieder** on GM Recordings, David Schiff's, **Gimple the Fool** on Naxos (Leading role of Elka), Handel's **Deidamia** (role of Achille) for Albany CD's, and a boxed set of New York Philharmonic CD's including Honegger's **Jeanne d'Arc** (the Heavenly Voice). Heading her list of 40 CD's are 8 premiere Handel Operas and Oratorios for Newport Classics, and Vox with a Grammy for **Imeneo**, while Sony re-issued her **Victorian Baseball: Hurrah For Our National Game**. Her 1st recording of Amy Beach **Songs and Interludes** won Best Record of the year from New York Magazine, the Boston Globe, and the New York Post, while her Dido in **Dido And Aeneas** on Harmonia Mundi, with the Boston Camerata, was hailed as the best by Graham Sheffield in "Opera on Record". Other Labels include London, Decca, Northeastern, Bridge, Koch, Gasparo, Margun, and Erato.

D'Anna Fortunato has researched and performed extensively the little-known works of Amy Beach, Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn, Franz Liszt, and Charles-Martin Loeffler. Composers John Harbison, Stephen Jaffee, Stephen Albert, John Heiss and Roger Sessions among others, have chosen her to debut performances of their compositions. She was born in Pittsburgh, and studied primarily at the New England Conservatory of Music.

D'Anna makes her Intermezzo debut as the Queen in James Yannatos' *Rocket's Red Blare* in September, 2011.