

ADIA EVANS

soprano

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Biography

Praised for her “big, beautifully projected voice with an attractive edge and sparkle” (Arts Knoxville), soprano Adia Evans is a 2023 recipient of the prestigious Richard F. Gold Career Grant from the Shoshana Foundation and a 2022 William Matheus Sullivan Foundation Award Winner. Evans will be joining the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s Ryan Opera Center Ensemble for the 2024-2025 season; she was also the Audience Choice Award in the final competition this September.

She completed the 2022-2023 season as a Hattie Mae Lesley Resident Artist with Fort Worth Opera, where she played High Priestess and covered the title role (*Aida*), The Mother (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), Ntsiki/Clarissa (*Stand Up* - world premiere), and Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*). A recent participant of the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco, Evans was featured as First Lady in their production of *Die Zauberflöte*, as a solo Niña in scenes from Golijov’s *Ainadamar*, and as a soloist in the American Song Concert. Her performance in the Merola Grand Finale was praised as “vivid, beautiful, and sweeping” (*Opera Tattler*). Evans spent the 2021 -2022 season as Resident Artist with Opera Columbus, where she covered the titular Tosca and Mary Johnson in Gregory Spears’ *Fellow Travelers*. Evans also performed the roles of Vanqui in Leslie Burrs’ *Vanqui* and Lucy in *Fellow Travelers* with Opera Columbus. Evans spent the summer as an Apprentice Artist with Santa Fe Opera where she covered the role of Foreign Princess in *Rusalka* and the titular role of Tosca. She also performed the role of Eva in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in the Apprentice Artist Scenes.

A formidable vocal competitor, Evans was most recently awarded the highly prestigious Richard F. Gold Grant from The Shoshana Foundation for her contributions during her time at Merola Opera Center. Previously in 2023, she was awarded 2nd Place and the Soprano Prize in the George Shirley Vocal Competition, 3rd Place in the Washington International Competition, 1st Place in the Dallas Opera Guild Lonestar Vocal Competition, 3rd Place in the Midwest Region of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, a career grant from the Pasadena Vocal Competition, and a winner in the Tulsa District of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. In 2022, 1st Place and Audience Choice in the James Toland Vocal Competition, an Encouragement Award from the Tennessee District of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, and 2nd Place in the Lewisville Lake Vocal Competition.

A frequent recitalist and concert soloist, Evans was featured on the PBS Special “Knox Opera for All!” with Knoxville Opera and was the guest soloist in Tulsa Opera’s MLK Day Parade, performing a short recital of repertoire by Black composers. In past seasons, Evans has performed the soprano solos in Haydn’s *Kleine Orgelmesse*, Mozart’s *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, Brahms’ *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, and Fauré’s *Requiem*.

Evans holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Maryland College Park and a Master of Music degree from the University of Tennessee Knoxville as part of the Knoxville Opera Studio. She is also a proud alumna of the Baltimore School for the Arts.

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Short Biography

Praised for her “big, beautifully projected voice with an attractive edge and sparkle” (*Arts Knoxville*), soprano Adia Evans has performed with Santa Fe Opera, (covering Foreign Princess in *Rusalka* and the titular *Tosca*), Merola Opera (First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*), Fort Worth Opera (High Priestess and *Aida* cover in *Aida*), Dallas Opera Guild, Opera Columbus, Tulsa Opera, Knoxville Opera, among others.

A formidable vocal competitor, Evans was a 2023 recipient of the prestigious Richard F. Gold Career Grant from the Shoshana Foundation and a 2022 William Matheus Sullivan Foundation Award Winner. In 2023, she was awarded 2nd Place and the Soprano Prize in the George Shirley Vocal Competition, 3rd Place in the Washington International Competition, 1st Place in the Dallas Opera Guild Lonestar Vocal Competition, 3rd Place in the Midwest Region of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, a career grant from the Pasadena Vocal Competition. In previous years, she was 1st Place and Audience Choice in the James Toland Vocal Competition, as well as several others.

Upcoming, Adia will be joining the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s Ryan Opera Center Ensemble for the 2024-2025 season. This season she made her debut at The Cliburn in Recital with Jake Heggie, her debut with Dayton Philharmonic as the soprano soloist in Handel’s *Messiah*, and her debut at Annapolis Opera as the First Lady in *The Magic Flute*. Later this season, she will perform with Borderland Arts Foundation as Mimi in *La Bohème* and with the National Orchestral Institute as the soprano soloist in Beethoven’s 9th Symphony under the baton of Marin Alsop.