

University of Missouri School of Music

2023-2024 Series • Faculty Recital

Christina Ray, mezzo-soprano

Dr. Rachel AuBuchon, piano

March 18, 2024 • 7:30PM

Whitmore Recital Hall

Program

Giovanna d'Arco **Gioachino Rossini**
(1792-1868)

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Performer Biographies

Praised for her “velvety mezzo” (OperaWire), **Christina Ray** is equally at home on the operatic, concert, and musical theatre stages. Recent roles include Cherubino in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*, Mercédès in *Carmen*, Mrs. Splinters in Aaron Copland’s *The Tender Land* and Ms. Lark in *Mary Poppins*, Béatrice in Berlioz’s *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, Celeste #1 in *Sunday in the Park with George*, Ramiro in Mozart’s *La finta giardiniera*, Hänsel from Humperdinck’s *Hänsel und Gretel*, and some of her personal favorites, all 3 of Rossini’s leading ladies, Rosina from *il barbiere di Siviglia*, Isabella from *l’Italiana in Algeri*, and the title role in *La Cenerentola*. As an active choral singer, Ms. Ray is a member of two professional ensembles, Vox Nova and Prometheus. Ms. Ray has sung professionally with many regional companies including, the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre, Overland Park Orchestra, The Missouri Symphony, Manhattan Concert Productions, and Opera Kansas. In 2016 she was a recipient of an Encouragement Award at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, in the Little Rock, AR district.

Ms. Ray is the Founding General Director of boutique opera company, Landlocked Opera. Landlocked Opera makes opera accessible to our community by celebrating historic operas while championing new works, ideas, and artists. Believing strongly in breaking down barriers and opera stereotypes, Landlocked Opera’s motto is “Opera for All.” Ms. Ray recently made her professional stage directorial debut with Landlocked Opera on the world premiere of *The Murderess*, composed by Allison McIntosh and libretto by Trip Venturella.

As an evidence-based voice specialist, she co-created Classically Untrained Voice Collective, a community of voice professionals committed to offering continuing educational opportunities in Musical Theatre and CCM style cross-training. Ms. Ray is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and serves as treasurer for the local Mid-MO NATS Chapter.

Pianist **Rachel AuBuchon** has the heart of a collaborator. From assisting choirs in her youth, playing numerous recitals of chamber music, being part of creative opera production, elevating new composers’ voices in performance, or simply spending hours in rehearsal, her passion for creating with others abides.

Recent engagements include a series of virtual recitals with Lauren Auge, soprano and serving as music director for Landlocked Opera’s production of *The Magic Flute*. Most recently, Rachel spent three years working with

students at Liberty North High School during the Coronavirus pandemic. Her love of vocal literature led her to participate in the CoOPERative program in Princeton, New Jersey (2013) and serve as a staff accompanist for the national NATS conference in 2015, 2016, and 2018. She also participated in the inaugural year for collaborative pianists at the NATS intern program (2017) under the mentorship of Warren Jones. Other recent performances include the 2014 North American Saxophone Conference with Trio Chymera, and the 2012 World Saxophone Congress with Leo Saguiguit. An avid supporter of new music, Dr. AuBuchon participated in the International Composers Festival in Columbia Missouri (2012, 2013), served as a rehearsal pianist for the first UMKC Sounding Board event (2021), and brought to life performances of students' opera works at UNC-G's Opera at the Carolina (2015—2017).

Rachel has served on the faculty of Stephens College, Truman State University, and UMKC, and now makes a return to the University of Missouri at Columbia. She holds degrees from Truman State University, University of Missouri at Columbia, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Her journey in learning and musical artistry includes study with David McKamie, Janice Wenger, Natalia Bolshakova, Paul Crabb, James Douglass, and countless talented musicians with whom she has had the privilege to collaborate.

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