**LAYLA CLAIRE, Soprano**

Praised for her colorful, flexible voice and graceful stage presence, Layla Claire has an exciting season of Mozart in 2016-17 including her Salzburger Festspiele debut as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* conducted by Alain Altinoglu and directed by Sven-Eric Bechtolf; she reprises the role for Opéra de Montréal and in a return engagement with the Opernhaus Zürich. Her Mozart year continues with a return to the Metropolitan Opera for her first Lincoln Center performances as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* and she makes a debut at Opera Philadelphia as the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*.

The Canadian soprano made her Metropolitan Opera debut while still a member of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program in *Don Carlo* led by Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and has since returned to the stage for several guest appearances including the creation of the role of Helena in the Baroque pastiche *The Enchanted Island* under William Christie’s baton (available on Virgin Classics DVD), and as Anne Truelove in *The Rake’s Progress* conducted by James Levine.

Highlights of past opera seasons include a debut at the Festival d’Aix-en-Provence as Sandrina in Mozart’s *La finta giardiniera* broadcast throughout Europe on ARTE, bringing the soprano immediate European attention, and leading to a re-engagement with the Festival for a production of Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* as well as debuts at the Glyndebourne Festival as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* and at the Opernhaus Zürich as The Governess in a new production by Willy Decker of Britten’s *The Turn of the Screw*. Layla Claire made her first foray into the operas of Händel singing the role of Tusnelda in *Arminio* at Karlsruhe Handelfestspiele with Armonia Atenea conducted by George Petrou; the project was captured and released commercially by Decca Classics.

An expressive and experienced concert singer, Layla Claire enjoys an ongoing association with the Boston Symphony Orchestra having performed Mahler’s Second Symphony under both James Levine and Michael Tilson Thomas and Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* conducted by Bernard Haitink. With Yannick Nézet-Séguin, she has performed Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis and Ninth Symphony at the Festival de Lanaudière as well as Dvořák’s Stabat Mater with L’Orchestre Métropolitain. At Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival she performed Beethoven’s Mass in C with Louis Langrée, and at Grant Park Music Festival she has sung Dvořák’s Requiem and Haydn’s *The Seasons* led by Carlos Kalmar. Her extensive recital presence on international stages has included programs of art song at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, CBC Glenn Gould Studio, and a multi-city tour of Canada as the winner of the Eckhardt-Gramatte National Music Competition.