**LAYLA CLAIRE, Soprano**

Canadian soprano Layla Claire was awarded the 2012 Prix des Amis d’Aix-en-Provence for best Mozart performance for her European debut as Sandrina (*La finta giardiniera*) and has since enjoyed acclaimed debuts at Salzburger Festspiele as Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), at Opernhaus Zürich as the Governess (*The* *Turn of the Screw)*, at Washington National Opera as Blanche de la Force (*Les dialogues des Carmélites*), at Glyndebourne Festival as Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), and at Händel-Festpiele Karlsruhe as Tusnelda (*Arminio*).  A graduate of the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Layla Claire has sung numerous roles on its stage including, most recently, Anne Truelove (*The Rake’s Progress*), conducted by James Levine.

An exciting season lies ahead for Layla Claire, who takes on the vocal and dramatic challenges of Handel’s *Alcina* in productions firstly at Moscow’s Bolshoi Theatre and subsequently at Händel-Festpiele Karlsruhe.  An accomplished and experienced concert singer, Ms. Claire has worked with major conductors including Michael Tilson-Thomas, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Bernard Haitink, and Louis Langrée in an expansive repertoire including works by Mahler, Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart and Dvořák.  This season she joins Jakub Hrůša and the Bamberger Symphoniker in concert performances of *Don Giovanni* in Bamberg and at Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie, as well as both the San Francisco and Colorado Symphony orchestras in Handel’s *Messiah*.