

## **CECILIA VIOLETTA LÓPEZ, SOPRANO**

*USA Today* has named Cecilia Violetta López one of "Idaho's Top 10 Most Influential Women of the Century" and has been named one of opera's "25 Rising Stars" by *Opera News*. The singing actress is constantly praised for her "alluring voice and incredible range" (*Washington Post*).

She has received accolades for her signature role of Violetta in *La traviata*, which she has performed countless times throughout North America. Critic, James Jorden, exclaimed "she is a Violetta fully-formed and, I think, ready for the great stages of the world." She has now performed the role with Opera Orlando, Pacific Symphony, Minnesota Opera, Opera Colorado, Opera Tampa, Opera Idaho, Ash Lawn Opera, The Northern Lights Music Festival, Madison Opera and Virginia Opera. Ms. López made her European début as Norina in *Don Pasquale* with Zomeropera in Belgium, for which *Klassiek Centraal* exclaimed: "She turns out to be the revelation of the show and wins over the audience with her funny rendition, irresistible charm, and [she is] natural in the different vocals."

From her performance as Adina in *The Elixir of Love* with Virginia Opera, *The Virginian- Pilot* hailed, "Cecilia Violetta López is showing local audiences why Opera News named her one of its '25 Rising Stars.' In the lead role of Adina, she hit the highest notes with ringing clarity, performed the vocal runs with precision and grace and showed a particular charm and humanity in the softest passages and lowest ranges." In her recent performance as Marguerite in *Faust* with Opera Omaha, the *Omaha World-Herald* claimed "...López sang Marguerite's seduction, madness and salvation with an other wordly wisdom and artistry."

Ms. López' 2021-2022 season includes several engagements ranging from opera performances to keynote speaking. Appearances include: Hanna Glawari in Opera Idaho's production of *The Merry Widow*; soprano soloist in Opera Idaho's "Opera in the Park" concert and Handel's *Messiah* with the Boise Philharmonic; Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with Utah Symphony, and a return engagement with Pacific Symphony for Mahler's Symphony No. 4. Cecilia also returns to Opera Orlando, where she reprises Violetta in their production of *La traviata* and Virginia Opera, where she will début the role of Beatrice in Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers*. Additionally, Ms. López will be an Artist in Residence at the University of Central Arkansas and will present recitals for Opera Orlando, Sun Valley Opera, Opera Idaho, New Mexico Performing Arts Society, JUMP Center in Boise, Idaho and Chamber Music Silicon Valley. Cecilia will also be a keynote speaker for the Migrant Student Leadership Institute as well as the 9th Annual Women and Leadership Conference, where previous speakers have included Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor and Interior Secretary, Sally Jewell. Upcoming engagements for the 2022-2023 season include "Celebrando a Mexico" with Opera Idaho, a Violetta cover assignment and concert appearances with Houston Grand Opera, and a role début of the title role in *Rusalka* with Opera Idaho.

Despite the halting effects of COVID-19 in the opera industry, Ms. López' 2020-2021 season included both virtual and live recitals with Opera Idaho, Opera Las Vegas, Austin Opera, Opera Southwest, Chatter ABQ, Opera America, Madison Opera and Opera Colorado. Ms. López was also a featured soprano soloist in the world premiere of *Mi Camino*, a virtual project with Opera Cultura, and made her company début with Pacific Symphony singing Violetta in their virtual production of *La traviata*. Ms. López also presented virtual Masterclasses with UC Boulder and The University of Montana.

In past seasons, Ms. López has made several role débuts including her now critically acclaimed role of Adina in *L'elisir d'amore* with Opera Idaho, Virginia Opera and Opera Las Vegas, the title role in Massenet's *Manon* with Opera Idaho, Nedda in *I pagliacci* with Opera Colorado, Desdemona in Rossini's *Otello* with LoftOpera, Maria in *West Side Story* with Opera Idaho, Marguerite in *Faust* with Opera Omaha, Mimi in *La bohème* with Opera Orlando, Rosalba in *Florencia en el Amazonas* with Florida Grand Opera, Beatrice Russo in *Il Postino* with Opera Southwest and Opera Saratoga, Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, and Contessa in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Opera Tampa, Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow* with Opera Saratoga, Lucy in *Fellow Travelers* with Prototype Opera Festival, the title role of *Suor Angelica* with Opera San Luis Obispo, Magda in *La rondine* with Skylark Opera Theatre, Gilda in *Rigoletto* with Opera Idaho, and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with Opera Tampa and Opera Las Vegas. In addition to these débuts,

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she reprised the role of Micaëla in *Carmen* with Madison Opera and joined the roster of the Metropolitan Opera in their 2015 production of *The Merry Widow*.

Solo concert performances include Mahler's *Symphony No. 4* and selections from Canteloube's *Chants d'Auvergne* with the Henderson Symphony Orchestra, and Rutter's *Mass of the Children* with the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society. Additionally, Ms. López has performed as a soloist at the reopening of the Idaho Museum of Natural History gala, various Christmas concerts with Madison Symphony, and as a featured soloist in concerts with the Boise Philharmonic, Austin Opera, and the prestigious Bard SummerScape Music Festival.

Ms. López also completed a two-year-tenure as a Soprano Resident Artist at Opera San José where she performed Leïla in *Les pêcheurs de perles*, Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus*, Leonora in *Il trovatore*, the title role in *Suor Angelica*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Nannetta in *Falstaff*, Gretel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, and Cio-Cio San in *Madama Butterfly*.

Additionally, Ms. López is an alum of the Caramoor Music Festival where she covered the role of Héléne in *Les vèpres siciliennes*. She is also an alum of the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival where she sang the title role in their production of *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. Her début of the role of Violetta in *La traviata*, was with Martina Arroyo Foundation's prestigious summer festival, **Prelude to Performance**.

In January 2021, Opera Idaho appointed Ms. López as the company's first Artistic Advisor. "Known to Opera Idaho audiences primarily through her appearances in operas over the last six-plus years, Cecilia takes on added responsibilities to advise and advocate for expanded repertoire, provide insights on diversity in artistic practices and community initiatives, and collaborate with senior management in identifying and securing financial support for the company. Cecilia will work closely with General Director Mark Junkert in helping shape the future of Opera Idaho," the company announced on its website.

*'When I think of someone, active in the field as a performer who both knows what's happening in the field nationally and internationally and knows our state, Cecilia is the perfect fit for the position. Many opera companies have similar positions, and it is a sign of Opera Idaho's growth that we're able at this point in our history to add an Artistic Advisor.'*  
—Mark Junkert, General Director, Opera Idaho

Recently, Ms. López became the recipient of an Idaho State Concurrent Resolution honoring her life as an Idahoan and her work in the world of opera.

*"We should be so very proud of Cecilia Violetta López. She exemplifies all that is what America is about: apply yourself, work hard, dream big, and you can achieve those dreams. She tells every Idaho girl and boy that they, too, can succeed ... no matter where they came from, no matter how small they may start out, no matter how long their journey may appear to be. Idaho should be so very proud of this young lady and should hold her up as an example of what all Idaho children might achieve."*  
—Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb.

Ms. López, "The Daughter of Idaho," a Mexican-American native of Rupert, Idaho, is featured in two Idaho state museums and got her musical start at a young age singing mariachi music that she learned from her mother.

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[bob@quintanaartists.com](mailto:bob@quintanaartists.com)