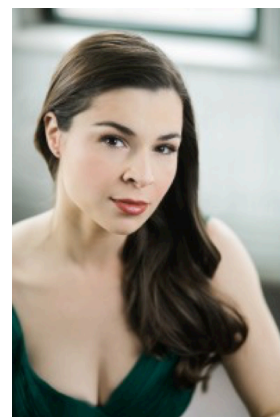


## Donata Cucinotta, Soprano

### *Biography*

Noted for her “particularly fine” soprano voice by Zachary Woolfe of *The New York Times*, Donata Cucinotta is an active performer of both opera and musical theater. Ms Cucinotta has performed with the Queens Symphony Orchestra at Avery Fisher Hall, Josephine at Knoxville Opera, Aldonza at Asheville Lyric Opera, First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* at Opera Tampa, as well as leading roles with Opera Colorado, Indianapolis Opera, Amarillo Opera, Asheville Lyric Opera, Salt Marsh Opera, Ohio Light Opera, Shreveport Opera, Opera in the Heights, Opera New Jersey, Opera Fort Collins, GLOW Lyric Theater and Opera Ithaca. She has sung under the baton of such conductors as Constantin Kitsopolous, Leonardo Vordoni, Joseph Colaneri, Gregory Buchalter, Jake Everly, David Bowden, Kathy Veneble, Keith Chambers and Brian DeMaris.



This season Ms Cucinotta sang several role and company debuts; as Nedda in *Pagliacci* at Opera in the Heights where D.L Groover of the Houston Press noted "Cucinotta's fiery soprano [that] opened up with a blistering top, square on, raising goose bumps in the best possible way. To top it off, she's the only soprano I know who can do a split, cartwheel, and a headstand! Brava for that!"; as Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* at Opera Ithaca; Aunt Norris in *Mansfield Park* at Indianapolis Opera; Evangeline in *Evangeline* with The Longfellow Chorus; her Asheville Lyric Opera debut as Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha* and Girl in the world premiere of *Wild Beast of the Bungalow* by Rachel Peters at Center for Contemporary Opera where Richard Sasanow of Broadway World noted: "The cast was smashing on all counts, so completely in tune with Peters' music that it was sometimes startling that they could be so far inside each other's heads. Donata Cucinotta was the center of it all as The Girl, with its rangy music. She captured all that was puerile and needy, and at the same time cruel and unthinking, in the dysfunctional worlds The Girl lives in and imagines"

Ms. Cucinotta's notable appearances have also included the North American premiere of a “Tone Poem” by Mario Jazzetti at Avery Fisher Hall; Countess in *Figaro! (90210)*, a new Spanish-English adaptation of *Le nozze di Figaro* with Morningside Opera; a leading role in the world premiere of a new musical by Grammy winner Paul Sullivan, *The Last Ferryman*, at the Stonington Opera House; a featured role in Bristol Riverside Theater’s *Winter Musicale*; Susan Lawrence in *Big The Musical* at Shadow Lawn Stage, Second Lady in Opera Tampa’s *Die Zauberflöte*; Josephine in Knoxville Opera’s *HMS Pinafore*; Gilda in *Rigoletto* at Opera Fort Collins, Musetta in *La Bohème* at Symphony Space, Fiordiligi in *Così Fan Tutte* with the Stony Hill Players, Nina in *The Firefly* at Ohio Light Opera, and Adele in *Die Fledermaus* at Amarillo Opera, and Knoxville Opera for which Alan Sherrod of the *Knoxville MetroPulse* praised her “bright and lively comedy.” The same publication later named her one of Knoxville’s “most memorable classical music performances ... a marvelous Donata Cucinotta revealed the flexibility of her character of Adele by doing onstage cartwheels and a split.”

After graduating from Mannes College of Music, Ms Cucinotta joined Shreveport Opera as a SOX (Shreveport Opera Xpress) artist where she understudied the roles of Violetta (*La Traviata*), and Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*) on the main stage. She also performed the role of Gretel in a touring production of *Hansel and Gretel*. As a member of Opera Colorado’s

ensemble, she appeared as Berta in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, understudied the Four Heroines in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, and sang the roles of Masha in *The Music Shop*, Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette*.

Ms. Cucinotta is a Metropolitan Opera National Council Regional Finalist, semi-finalist in the San Antonio Opera Competition, Audience Choice Award and Honorable Mention at the Shreveport Opera Singer of the Year Competition, first-place winner at the NATS Eastern Competition and a finalist at the Classical Singer Competition.

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