

ASHLEY GALVANI BELL

www.ashleygalvanibell.com, ashleygalvanibell@gmail.com, (917) 250-2087

Hailed by *Opera News* as “delightful,” soprano **Ashley Bell** started as a member of the Metropolitan Opera Children’s Chorus and has since performed as a soloist in the United States, Italy, Spain, France and Russia. In 2022, she made her debut with Seville’s Teatro Maestranza as Violetta in *La Traviata*, joined ABAO Bilbao Opera, covering roles in *La Voix Humaine* & Zemlinsky’s *Eine Florentische Tragödie* and originated the title role in the world premiere of Pedro Halffter’s opera *Klara*. Other 2022 engagements included Mimí in *La Bohème* with California’s Opera Modesto, Violetta in *La Traviata* in La Rioja, Spain & Soprano Soloist in Beethoven’s 9th Symphony with both Orquesta Sinfonica de Madrid and in the Festival de Villafranca del Bierzo. Last year, as in-person performances resumed, she sang one of her signature roles, Elle, in a critically-acclaimed production of *La voix humaine* both at Spain’s Rioja Forum & Bay Street Theatre. During the pandemic, Ashley produced & starred in documentary film *Rival Queens* featuring music from *Maria Stuarda*, which has won 20 awards in international film festivals including Best Documentary at Tokyo Film Festival.

In recent seasons, she made her Carnegie Hall debut as soprano soloist in Hadyn’s “Nelson” Mass and Schubert’s Mass in C with MidAmerica Productions, debuted as Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* with California’s Townsend Opera, sang Mimí in *La bohème* with both Mississippi Opera and Natchez Festival, sang Donna Anna in sold-out performances at Bay Street Theatre, and debuted with New York City Opera as a principal artist in *L'amore dei tre re*. Other notable performances have included her debut as Gilda in *Rigoletto* with New Jersey Verismo Opera, Anna in *Lorelei* with Teatro Grattacielo, productions of *Madama Butterfly* and *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with Sarasota Opera, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with Orchestra Filarmonica di Roma, Norina in *Don Pasquale* in Logroño, Spain, Violetta in *La traviata* with Mid-Atlantic Opera, Isabella Colbran in the premiere of *Discovering Mrs. Rossini* at the Sheen Center in NYC, and Musetta at the National Opera Center.

Ms. Bell’s other projects have included the lead in Serrano’s zarzuela *La Dolorosa* with Rioja Lirica, soprano soloist in the Italian Cultural Institute & Basilica of St. Patrick Old Cathedral’s commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of Lorenzo da Ponte, Dorothée in the U.S. premiere of Offenbach’s *La Bonne d’Enfant* with Salome Chamber Orchestra, and Molpe in Choreo Teatro’s world premiere of *Odyssey* at the 92nd Street Y.

Ms. Bell is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale University & speaks five languages fluently. She is a recipient of Yale’s Browne Irish Performing Arts Award & a Scholarship Award at the Crested Butte Music Festival. 2023 engagements include her debut with ABAO as Fiordiligi & Cio Cio San with Boheme Opera New Jersey.

REVIEWS:

Elle in *La voix humaine* at Rioja Forum, Spain

"The soprano Ashley Bell may well have been the person for whom this opera was written, for her brilliant suitability to the intense vocalism that Poulenc demands, with a large voice, dark in her low notes and shimmering in her upper register, with a powerful and overwhelming middle voice and furthermore with world class acting that ignited her entire performance with expressiveness. You might think that an opera with just one female character speaking on the phone with the lover who has left her would be boring, but you have to see how well it works in the hands of a powerful singer and actress like Ashley Bell: it will take your breath away." - Eduardo Aisa, *La Rioja*

Cio Cio San in *Madama Butterfly* with Mid-Atlantic Opera

“Soprano Ashley Bell wore the role of Cio-Cio-San as well as the *kimono* and *tabi* she sported. The intensity of her “*Un bel di*” was shattering and she brought every skill in her armamentarium to bear on her delivery. The remainder of her performance was marked by a bright clear tone, excellent phrasing, and a wide palette of colors. She convinced us as a naive and hopeful 15-year-old, a deluded bride, an angry woman when challenged, and a resolute and noble figure who refuses to live without honor.” - Meche Kroop, [Voce di Meche](#)

Musetta in *La bohème* at the National Opera Center

Ashley Bell was delightful as Musetta. Of all the singers, she was the most fully off-book, allowing her to devote more energy to the acting dimension of her role. She was charmingly coquettish in the “Quando me’n vo” (aka Musetta’s waltz), and empathetically supportive in Act IV’s conclusion. - Arlo McKinnon, *Opera News*

Norina in *Don Pasquale* with Rioja Lirica in Logroño, Spain

The American soprano Ashley Bell was unstoppable in her brilliant singing and proved herself a true “stage animal” with her hilarious interpretation of the two-sided character of Norina/Sofronia.” - Eduardo Aisa, *La Rioja*

Concert at Old St. Patrick’s Cathedral, New York City

"Ashley Bell had wonderful technique...Her voice was a glove-like fit for Entrada de Cecilia Valdes. Here, every facet of her voice & her magnificently coquettish acting brought a complete performance to fruition" . – Greg Moomjy, [MV Daily](#)

ASHLEY BELL, SOPRANO

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OPERA

Upcoming

Klara	<i>Klara</i> (Pedro Halffter)	Teatro Pérez Galdós-Gran Canaria-Spain	2023
Cio Cio San	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Boheme Opera NJ	2023
<i>Past</i>			
Fiordiligi	<i>Così Fan Tutte</i>	ABAO- Bilbao Opera	2023
Klara	<i>Klara</i> by Pedro Halffter (<i>U.S. Premiere</i>)	Harvard University	2022
Violetta	<i>La traviata</i>	Teatro de la Maestranza – Seville	2022
Klara	<i>Klara</i> by Pedro Halffter (<i>world premiere</i>)	Festival Villafranca del Bierzo (Spain)	2022
Elle	<i>La voix humaine</i>	Festival Villafranca del Bierzo (Spain)	2022
Violetta	<i>La traviata</i>	Semana Lirica Lucrecia Arana – Spain	2022
Mimí	<i>La bohème</i>	Opera Modesto (California)	2022
Bianca (cover)	<i>Eine Florentinische Tragödie</i> (Zemlinsky)	ABAO – Bilbao Opera	2022
Elle (cover)	<i>La voix humaine</i>	ABAO – Bilbao Opera	2022
Elle	<i>La voix humaine</i>	Rioja Forum (Spain)	2021/2018
Elle	<i>La voix humaine</i>	Bay Street Theatre (NY)	2021
Maria Stuarda	<i>Maria Stuarda</i>	Bay Street Theatre	2020
Anna	<i>Loreley</i> (Catalani)	Teatro Grattacielo	2019
Desdemona	<i>Otello</i> (Verdi)	Divaria Productions	2019
Elle	<i>La voix humaine</i>	New York Opera Fest	2019
Mimí	<i>La bohème</i>	Natchez Festival, USA	2019
Mimí	<i>La bohème</i>	Mississippi Opera	2019
Donna Anna	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Rioja Lirica / Bay Street Theatre	2018
Cio-Cio-San	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Townsend Opera (California)	2018
Giovanetta, Fiora (cover)	<i>L'amore dei tre re</i> (Montemezzi)	New York City Opera	2018
Alma (cover)	<i>Brokeback Mountain</i> (Wuorinen)	New York City Opera	2018
Violetta	<i>La traviata</i>	Mid-Atlantic Opera /Axelrod Theatre	2017
Fiordiligi	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Bay Street Theatre – Rioja Lirica	2017
Blanche (cover)	<i>Dialogues of the Carmelites</i>	Sarasota Opera	2017
Cio-Cio-San (cover)	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Sarasota Opera	2017
Gilda	<i>Rigoletto</i>	New Jersey Verismo Opera	2016
Norina	<i>Don Pasquale</i>	Bay Street Theatre	2016
Musetta	<i>La bohème</i>	Sheen Center – Amore Opera	2015
Fiordiligi	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Narni Festival-Orchestra Filarmonica Roma	2015
Violetta	<i>La traviata</i>	Bay Street Theatre	2015
Norina	<i>Don Pasquale</i>	Rioja Lirica (Logroño, Spain)	2015
Musetta	<i>La bohème</i>	NY Lyric Opera/Nat. Opera Center	2014
Donna Anna	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Narnia Festival-Orchestra Filarmonica Roma	2014
Dolores	<i>La Dolorosa</i> (Serrano)	Rioja Lirica – Centro Español NY	2014
Beauty	<i>Beauty & the Beast</i> (Giannini)	Dicapo Opera Theatre	2013
Mimí	<i>La bohème</i>	Dicapo Opera Theatre	2013
Katrina	<i>Legend of Sleepy Hollow</i> (world premiere)	Dicapo Opera Theatre	2013
Dorothee	<i>La bonne d'enfant</i> (US premiere)	Salome Chamber Orchestra	2013
Musetta	<i>La bohème</i>	Long Island Opera	2013
Susanna	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Opera New Hampshire	2013
Susanna	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Teatro Lirico D'Europa	2013
Violetta	<i>La traviata</i>	Hawthorne Symphony	2012
Serpina	<i>La serva padrona</i>	Salome Chamber Orchestra, NY & AZ	2012
Adina	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Divaria Productions, Tuxedo Park & NYC	2011
Donna Elvira	<i>Don Giovanni</i> (scenes)	Hawthorne Symphony	2010
Annina, Violetta (cover)	<i>La traviata</i>	Long Island Opera	2010
Romilda (cover)	<i>Serse</i> (Handel)	Pocket Opera New York	2010
Susanna (cover)	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Crested Butte Music Festival	2009
Feu/Chauve-Souris	<i>L'Enfant et les Sortilèges</i>	Crested Butte Music Festival	2009
Guadalena	<i>La Périchole</i>	Opera du Périgord	2008
Despina	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	National Opera Centre: Brooklyn College	2008
Lauretta	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	IIVA, Chiari, Italy	2007
Clarina	<i>La cambiale di matrimonio</i>	Teatro Sociale, Brescia	2006
Erste Dame	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Yale University	2006

CONCERTS, RECITALS (*Soprano Soloist*)

Beethoven's 9 th Symphony	Orquesta Sinfonica de Madrid/Titular del Teatro Real	2022
Beethoven's 9 th Symphony	Festival de Villafranca de Bierzo (Spain) - M. Halffter	2022
Handel's Messiah Parts I, II and III	Performing Arts Center- Purchase w/ Byung Kook Kwak	2021/2019
An evening of Music & Shakespeare	Rites of Spring Music Festival	2021
Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle	Oratorio Espectacular – Santo Domingo de la Calzada	2019
Haydn's "Nelson" Mass	Carnegie Hall with MidAmerica Productions	2018
Schubert's Mass in C	Carnegie Hall with MidAmerica Productions	2018
Hadyn's Nelson Mass	St. Bart's Church – Park Avenue	2018
Fauré Requiem	St. Joseph's Concert Series	2018
Beethoven's Ninth Symphony	Gainesville Orchestra	2017
Handel's Messiah (Parts 1 & III)	St. Joseph's Church-Bronxville	2017
Shakespeare Concert	New York City Opera, NYC	2016
Isabella Colbran in <i>Discovering Mrs. Rossini</i>	Istituto Italiano di Cultura NY / Rites of Spring festival	2015/2021
Scenes from <i>La Traviata & Rigoletto</i>	Verde Valley Sinfonietta – Sedona, Arizona	2014
Scenes from <i>Pagliacci</i> and <i>La bohème</i> (<i>Mimi</i>)	Moscow -- American Masters Academy	2014
Soprano Soloist in 175 th Anniversary of Lorenzo da Ponte	Istituto Italiano di Cultura & Old St. Patrick's	2011 & 2012
Cuba y España: Zarzuela concerts w/ M ^o Pablo Zinger	Santo Domingo de la Calzada, Spain	2011 & 2012
Fauré Requiem & Schubert's Mass in G	St. Luke's Darien, CT	2011
Trinity Chapel Vespers with organist John Rose	Hartford, CT – Trinity College Chapel	2011
Scenes from <i>Don Pasquale & La bohème</i> (<i>Musetta</i>)	Crested Butte Music Festival	2009
Soprano Soloist in Vivaldi's Gloria, M Leif Bjaland	Waterbury Symphony	2007

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Yale University: Bachelor of Arts with Phi Beta Kappa Distinction in Italian and International Studies

Università di Bologna – Distinction in Italian and Political Science (media 29.2/30)

Young Artists Programs/Studio Programs:

Sarasota Studio Artist, 2017

American Masters Academy Opera (Moscow, Russia), 2014

Dicapo Opera Theatre Resident Artist, 2013-2014

Crested Butte Festival Young Artist Program, 2009

Accademia Rossiniana (Pesaro, Italy), 2008

Opera Studio w/ Renata Scotto at Accademia Santa Cecilia 2008

IVAI Puerto Rico

International Institute of Vocal Arts Chiari (Italy)

Conductors: Pedro Halffter, Israel Gursky, Lucy Arner, Ryan Murray, Fiora Contino, David Syrus, Richard Barrett

Directors: JJ Hudson, Paolo Baiocco, Michael Capasso, Carlos Conde, Mignon Dunn, William Lewis, Luca Ricci, Sarah Meyers

Coaches: Steven Eldredge, Audrey Saint-Gil, Lucy Yates, Brad Moore, Eve Queler, Bruno Rigacci

Voice Teacher: Richard Bernstein

Acting: Sam Schacht (Actor's Studio), Per Brahe & Lenard Petit (Chekhov)

Dance: Luigi Jazz Centre,

Languages: Fluent in Italian, French, Spanish, German, Latin; Elementary Portuguese & Russian

AWARDS AND HONORS

Maria Stuarda documentary film won awards in 20 international film festivals including: Best Documentary at Madrid Art Film Festival, Rome International Movie Awards & Tokyo Film Festival and Best Indie Feature at Prague International Film Awards.

Honors: Scholarship Award at Crested Butte Music Festival, Yale University Browne Irish Award for the Performing Arts, Yale Sudler Fund Grant, Fulbright Scholarship Finalist, Special Guest on WMNR Fine Arts Radio w/ Jeane Eddy

Finalist/Honorable Mention: New Jersey State Opera Competition & Opera Columbus Competition

Semi-Finalist: Oratorio Society of New York Competition, Jenny Lind Competition, Shreveport Singer of the Year, Charles A. Lynam Competition

ROLES IN PREPARATION

Leonora	<i>Il trovatore</i>
Amelia	<i>Simon Boccanegra</i>
Liù	<i>Turandot</i>
Micaela	<i>Carmen</i>
Tatiana	<i>Eugene Onegin</i>
Antonia	<i>Les contes d'Hoffmann</i>
Nedda	<i>I Pagliacci</i>

