

## ASHLEY GALVANI BELL

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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. Most recently she made her debut with ABAO Bilbao Opera singing Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, sang Cio Cio San in *Madama Butterfly* with both Bohème Opera New Jersey and Daytona Beach Symphony Society, was soprano soloist with Milan’s Orchestra UNIMI in Mozart’s *Exultate Jubilate* and sang Violetta in *La Traviata* the title role in world premiere of *Penelope’s Dream*, soprano soloist in Zemlinsky’s *Lyric Symphony* all with the Festival of Villafranca del Bierzo, Spain. 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 175<sup>th</sup> 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 92<sup>nd</sup> 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 Crested Butte Music Festival. Upcoming engagements include the title role in *Klara* at Teatro Perez Galdos in Gran Canaria.

### REVIEWS:

#### Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* with ABAO Bilbao

" The leading role of Fiordiligi fell to the young American soprano Ashley Galvani Bell, a very well projected voice who has the ability to reach high notes with the greatest ease. Very majestic in “sento Oh Dio che questo piede” and very convincing in the coloratura from “come scoglio” in the first act. In the second act her singing filled all the corners of the Bilbao opera house....The American soprano has a superabundance of talent to have a good career, as she demonstrated in her aria of the second act..”  
- Jose Nogueira, ProOpera

#### Violetta in *La Traviata* at Teatro de la Maestranza -Seville

“Ashley Galvani Bell brought the courtesan of act one to life, with a formidable stage performance and a brilliantly penetrating high register (she topped it off with the traditional imposed high E flat). She marked the evolution of the character well..She was moving in the last sentences of her intervention (in the last “gioia” she called to mind the woman from the beginning)..”  
-Pablo J. Vayón, El Diario de Sevilla

#### 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*

# ASHLEY GALVANI BELL [www.ashleygalvanibell.com](http://www.ashleygalvanibell.com)

"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 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*

*La Voix Humaine*, Rioja Forum, SPAIN



## OPERA

### *Upcoming*

<b>Violetta</b>	<i>La Traviata</i>	Festival Villafranca del Bierzo (Spain)	2023
<b>Klara</b>	<i>Klara</i>	Teatro Pérez Galdós-Gran Canaria-Spain	2023

### *Past*

<b>Fiordiligi</b>	<i>Così Fan Tutte</i>	ABAO-Bilbao Opera	2023
<b>Cio Cio San</b>	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Boheme Opera (New Jersey)	2023
<b>Cio Cio San</b>	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Daytona Beach Symphony	2023
<b>Klara</b>	<i>Klara-Pedro Halffter (US &amp; World premieres)</i>	Harvard, VillafrancadelBierzo & Teatro Escorial	2022/23
<b>Violetta</b>	<i>La traviata</i>	Teatro de la Maestranza – Seville	2022
<b>Elle</b>	<i>La voix humaine</i>	Festival Villafranca del Bierzo (Spain)	2022
<b>Violetta</b>	<i>La traviata</i>	Semana Lirica Lucrecia Arana – Spain	2022
<b>Mimí</b>	<i>La bohème</i>	Opera Modesto (California)	2022
<b>Bianca (cover)</b>	<i>Eine Florentinische Tragödie (Zemlinsky)</i>	ABAO – Bilbao Opera	2022
<b>Elle (cover)</b>	<i>La voix humaine</i>	ABAO – Bilbao Opera	2022
<b>Elle</b>	<i>La voix humaine</i>	Rioja Forum (Spain)	2021/18
<b>Elle</b>	<i>La voix humaine</i>	Bay Street Theatre (New York)	2021
<b>Maria Stuarda</b>	<i>Maria Stuarda</i>	Bay Street Theatre	2020
<b>Anna</b>	<i>Loreley (Catalani)</i>	Teatro Grattacielo – New York	2019
<b>Desdemona</b>	<i>Otello (Verdi)</i>	Divaria Productions - USA	2019
<b>Elle</b>	<i>La voix humaine</i>	New York Opera Fest	2019
<b>Mimí</b>	<i>La bohème</i>	Natchez Festival of Music (USA)	2019
<b>Mimí</b>	<i>La bohème</i>	Mississippi Opera	2018
<b>Donna Anna</b>	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Rioja Lirica / Bay Street Theatre	2018
<b>Cio-Cio-San</b>	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Townsend Opera (California)	2018
<b>Giovanetta, Fiora (cover)</b>	<i>L'amore dei tre re (Montemezzi)</i>	New York City Opera	2018
<b>Alma (cover)</b>	<i>Brokeback Mountain (Wuorinen)</i>	New York City Opera	2017
<b>Violetta</b>	<i>La traviata</i>	Mid-Atlantic Opera /Axelrod Theatre	2017
<b>Fiordiligi</b>	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Bay Street Theatre – Rioja Lirica	2017
<b>Blanche (cover)</b>	<i>Dialogues of the Carmelites</i>	Sarasota Opera	2017
<b>Cio-Cio-San (cover)</b>	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Sarasota Opera	2016
<b>Gilda</b>	<i>Rigoletto</i>	New Jersey Verismo Opera	2013/15
<b>Musetta</b>	<i>La bohème</i>	Long Island Opera & Amore Opera	2015
<b>Fiordiligi</b>	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Narni Festival-Orchestra Filarmonica Roma	2015
<b>Violetta</b>	<i>La traviata</i>	Bay Street Theatre	2015/16
<b>Norina</b>	<i>Don Pasquale</i>	Rioja Lirica (Logroño, Spain) & Bay Street	2014
<b>Musetta</b>	<i>La bohème</i>	NY Lyric Opera/Nat. Opera Center	2014
<b>Donna Anna</b>	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Narni Festival-Orchestra Filarmonica Roma	2014
<b>Beauty</b>	<i>Beauty &amp; the Beast (Giannini)</i>	Dicapo Opera Theatre	2014
<b>Mimí</b>	<i>La bohème</i>	Dicapo Opera Theatre	2014
<b>Katrina</b>	<i>Legend of Sleepy Hollow (World premiere)</i>	Dicapo Opera Theatre	2013
<b>Susanna</b>	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Opera New Hampshire	2013
<b>Erste Dame</b>	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Yale University	

## CONCERTS (Soprano Soloist)

<b>Zemlinsky Lyrische Symphonie</b>	Festival de Villafranca de Bierzo (Spain) - M. Halffter	2023
<b>Exultate Jubilate</b>	Orchestra UNIMI, Milan – M. Sebastiano Rolli	2023
<b>Soprano Soloist in Excerpts from <i>La Boheme</i></b>	Metropolitan Opera Guild	2023
<b>Beethoven 9. Symphonie</b>	Orquesta Sinfonica de Madrid/Titular del Teatro Real	2022
<b>Beethoven 9. Symphonie</b>	Festival de Villafranca de Bierzo (Spain) - M. Halffter	2022
<b>Messiah-Handel</b>	Purchase Performing Arts Center w/ Byung Kook Kwak	2021/2019
<b>Petite Messe Solennelle-Rossini</b>	Oratorio Espectacular – Santo Domingo Calzada (Spain)	2019
<b>“Nelson” Mass - Hadyn</b>	Carnegie Hall	2018
<b>Messe C-Dur-Schubert</b>	Carnegie Hall	2018
<b>Requiem-Fauré</b>	St. Joseph’s Concert Series (New York)	2018
<b>Beethoven 9. Symphonie</b>	Gainseville Symphony (Florida)	2017

## **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 Opera Studio Artist	American Masters Academy Opera (Moscow, Russia)
Dicapo Opera Theatre Resident Artist	Crested Butte Festival Young Artist Program
Accademia Rossiniana (Pesaro, Italy)	Opera Studio w/ Renata Scotto at Accademia Santa Cecilia
IVAI Puerto Rico	International Institute of Vocal Arts Chiari (Italy)

*Conductors:* Pedro Halffter, Israel Gursky, Pedro Bartolomé, Manuel Busto, Lucy Arner, Ryan Murray, Fiora Contino, Richard Barrett

*Directors:* JJ Hudson, Paolo Baiocco, Michael Capasso, Carlos Conde, Mignon Dunn, William Lewis, 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, Latin; Intermediate German, 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>
Vitelia	<i>La Clemenza di Tito</i>

