

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 the title role in world premiere of *Penelope’s Dream*, soprano soloist in Zemlinsky’s *Lyric Symphony* and Violetta in *La Traviata* 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 Mimì 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 Mimì 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 Theatro’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. 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*

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"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

Violetta	<i>La Traviata</i>	Festival Villafranca del Bierzo (Spain)	2023
Klara	<i>Klara</i>	Teatro Pérez Galdós-Gran Canaria-Spain	2023
<i>Past</i>			
Cio Cio San	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Boheme Opera (New Jersey)	2023
Cio Cio San	<i>Madame Butterfly</i>	Daytona Symphony Society (Florida)	2023
Fiordiligi	<i>Così Fan Tutte</i>	ABAO- Bilbao Opera	2023
Klara	<i>Klara-Pedro Halffter (US & World premieres)</i>	Harvard University & VillafrancadelBierzo	2022
Violetta	<i>La traviata</i>	Teatro de la Maestranza – Seville	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(Zemlinsky)</i>	ABAO – Bilbao Opera	2022
Elle (cover)	<i>La voix humaine</i>	ABAO – Bilbao Opera	2022
Elle	<i>La voix humaine</i>	Rioja Forum (Spain)	2022
Elle	<i>La voix humaine</i>	Bay Street Theatre (New York)	2021/2018
Maria Stuarda	<i>Maria Stuarda</i>	Bay Street Theatre	2021
Anna	<i>Loreley (Catalani)</i>	Teatro Grattacielo – New York	2020
Desdemona	<i>Otello (Verdi)</i>	Divaria Productions - USA	2019
Elle	<i>La voix humaine</i>	New York Opera Fest	2019
Mimí	<i>La bohème</i>	Natchez Festival of Music (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 (Montemezzi)</i>	New York City Opera	2018
Alma (cover)	<i>Brokeback Mountain (Wuorinen)</i>	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
Musetta	<i>La bohème</i>	Long Island Opera & Amore Opera	2013/2015
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), Bay Street	2015/2016
Musetta	<i>La bohème</i>	NY Lyric Opera/Nat. Opera Center	2014
Donna Anna	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Narni Festival-Orchestra Filarmonica Roma	2014
Beauty	<i>Beauty & the Beast (Giannini)</i>	Dicapo Opera Theatre	2014
Mimí	<i>La bohème</i>	Dicapo Opera Theatre	2014
Katrina	<i>Legend of Sleepy Hollow (World premiere)</i>	Dicapo Opera Theatre	2014
Susanna	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Opera New Hampshire	2013
Erste Dame	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Yale University	

CONCERTS (Soprano Soloist)

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

Dicapo Opera Theatre Resident Artist

Accademia Rossiniana (Pesaro, Italy)

IVAI Puerto Rico

American Masters Academy Opera (Moscow, Russia)

Crested Butte Festival Young Artist Program

Opera Studio w/ Renata Scotto at Accademia Santa Cecilia

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

Il trovatore

Amelia

Simon Boccanegra

Liù

Turandot

Micaela

Carmen

Tatiana

Eugene Onegin

Antonia

Les contes d'Hoffmann

Nedda

I Pagliacci

Vitelia

La Clemenza di Tito

