

Magdalena How – Soprano



Coloratura soprano Magdalena How is currently pursuing her master's degree in Opera Performance at the University of British Columbia under the tutelage of Nancy Hermiston. Born in Victoria, Magdalena spent her early childhood in Ontario before her family returned to the West Coast. She has loved music all her life, enthusiastically participating in community and school choirs and enjoying performing in musical theatre as a teenager, particularly when touring musicals to Lower Mainland elementary schools as part of the Arts Umbrella Pre-Professional Musical Theatre Troupe. At the age of 16, Magdalena began to study classical voice at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music and has loved it ever since!

As part of her studies Magdalena has been fortunate enough to portray a wide variety of operatic roles, including: Olympia (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*), Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Anna

Sørensen (*Silent Night*), Elvira (*L'Italiana in Algeri*), and Clorinda (*La Cenerentola*) with UBC Opera, and Miss Silverpeal (*The Impresario*), Oberto (*Alcina*), and Billie (*Speed Dating Tonight!*) with Opera McGill. In addition to opera, Magdalena has performed extensively across the Lower Mainland, singing as a guest soloist with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir and Amabilis Singers as well as participating in numerous local concerts and other events. Recently, Magdalena toured to Europe with UBC Opera to sing in a series of concerts in Plzen, Czech Republic and Nürnberg, Germany. She is honoured to have received a number of awards, most notably: The University of BC Medal in Music (2019), the Edwina Heller Memorial Award in Opera (2018), the Vancouver Opera Guild Young Talent in Opera Grant (2018), the Phyllis and Bernard Shapiro Scholarship (2016), and the Hélène Gombay Memorial Prize (2015). Magdalena has also worked as the Surtitles Operator for Vancouver Opera and UBC Opera. When Magdalena is not singing, she can frequently be found knitting, baking, or enjoying a fantasy novel.