

Christina Thanisch-Smith | Soprano

+1 (514) 349-8566

cthanischsmith@gmail.com

christinathanischsmith.com

Currently based in: Montreal, QC, and Calgary, AB, Canada



ROLES

Zerlina	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Mozart	Calgary Opera	2025
Gannetta	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Donizetti	Calgary Opera	2024
Woglinde	<i>Das Rheingold</i>	Wagner	Calgary Opera (role study)	2024
Beauty	<i>Beauty & the Beast</i>	Giannini	Calgary Opera	2023
Susanna	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Mozart	Calgary Opera (cover)	2023
Eurydice	<i>Orphée et Eurydice</i>	Gluck	Manitoba Underground Opera	2022
Hero	<i>Much Ado!</i>	James Garner	Opéra McGill (workshop)	2022
Thérèse/Tirésias	<i>Les Mamelles de Tirésias</i>	Poulenc	Opéra McGill	2021
Partenope	<i>Partenope</i>	Handel	Opéra McGill	2021
Soprano 4	<i>Six Voix Pour Sirènes</i>	Sokolović	U of M Opera Theatre	2020
Lily	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Simon	Opera NUOVA	2019
Mariane	<i>Tartuffe</i>	Kirke Mechem	Opera NUOVA	2018

PARTIAL ROLES

Sophie	<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>	Strauss	McGill University	2023
Ilia	<i>Idomeneo</i>	Mozart	U of M Opera Theatre	2020
Arminda	<i>La Finta Giardiniera</i>	Mozart	U of M Opera Theatre	2018

CONCERT

Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO)	2022
Mahler's <i>Symphony No. 4</i>	McGill Symphony Orchestra at Maison Symphonique	2022
Talent Gala	Opéra de Montréal & L'Atelier Lyrique	2022
Solo Recital	Agassiz Chamber Music Festival	2022

COMPETITION & AWARDS

WSO McLellan Competition	Finalist	2024
Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation	Canadian Opera Singers Foundation Grant	2023
Della Pergola Award (McGill University)	Excellence in Opera Bursary	2023
Wirth Vocal Prize (McGill University)	Semi-Finalist	2023
NATS Contemporary Music Competition	Winner	2019
Zita Bernstein Lieder Competition	Winner (youngest winner in competition's history)	2017

TRAINING & SUMMER PROGRAMS

McPhee Artist (YAP)	Calgary Opera	2023-25
Graduate Diploma in Performance	McGill University	2023
Master of Music (Opera/Voice-Thesis)	McGill University	2022
Bachelor of Music (Voice)	University of Manitoba	2020
Art of Song Fellow	Toronto Summer Music Festival	2024
Artist in Residence	Franz-Schubert-Institut (Austria)	2023
Season Artist	Les Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques	2022-23
Art of Song Fellow	Toronto Summer Music Festival	2022
Opera Workshop	St. Andrews Arts Council (lead by Wendy Nielsen)	2022
Opera/Oratorio & Art Song Programs	Stratford Summer Music Festival Academy	2021

LANGUAGES: English: fluent, German: fluent, French: working knowledge, Italian: working knowledge

TEACHERS

Dominique Labelle
Tracy Dahl
Wendy Nielsen
Monica Huisman

COACHES

Michael McMahon
Mark Morash
Emily Hamper
Wolfram Rieger

DIRECTORS

Aria Umezawa
Pablo Maritano
Patrick Hansen
Tom Diamond

CONDUCTORS

Jonathan Brandani
Farkhad Khudiyev
Stephen Hargreaves
Alexis Hauser

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTORS

Elly Ameling
Helmut Deutsch
Birgid Steinberger
Francois Le Roux
Robert Holl

OTHER SKILLS: Ballet and tap dance experience, competitive synchronized swimmer, former art teacher for school-aged children.

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BIOGRAPHY

Praised for her “shimmering vocals with pitch perfect intonation” and “ringing high notes” (Opera Canada), Christina Thanisch-Smith is quickly gaining praise in the Canadian music scene. Born in Fredericton and raised in Winnipeg, the Canadian/German soprano is a first year McPhee Artist with Calgary Opera, where she will make her main-stage debut as Giannetta in *L’elisir d’amore*, and sing Beauty in Giannini’s *Beauty & The Beast*. In 2023, she completed her graduate studies at McGill University’s Schulich School of Music, where she performed the titular roles in Poulenc’s *Les mamelles de Tirésias* and Handel’s *Partenope*, respectively, and additionally made her Maison Symphonique debut as soloist for Mahler’s *Symphony no. 4*.

Christina was a member of Les Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques for the 2022-23 season, was selected for the Opéra de Montréal Talent Gala, made her debut with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra as soloist for Handel’s *Messiah*, and bowed as Eurydice in Manitoba Underground Opera’s production of *Orphée et Eurydice*, all while embarking on trips to the United States, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

When not singing operatic repertoire, Christina is happy to live in the world of song and chamber music. While studying at the Franz-Schubert-Institut, Christina worked closely with Elly Ameling, Helmut Deutsch, Birgid Steinberger, Robert Vignoles, Julius Drake, Andreas Schmidt, Wolfram Rieger, and Robert Holl, refining her interpretation of the German Lied. As a singer for the McGill-Université de Montréal Piano-Vocal Accompaniment Residency, she has sung for renewed pianists and singers such as James Vaughn (La Scala), Graham Johnson, Jeff Cohen, and Francois Le Roux.

Christina is an alumna of McGill University (G.D.P., M.Mus.), the University of Manitoba (B.Mus.), Toronto Summer Music Festival, the Franz-Schubert-Institut, Stratford Summer Music Festival Academy, Opera NUOVA, and Wendy Nielsen’s Opera Workshop.

When not singing, Christina enjoys exploring Manitoba with her geologist-father as a licensed prospector. She flew co-pilot for the first time in a de Havilland Canada DHC-2 Beaver plane this year.

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Repertoire List (October 2023)

FULL ROLES

Donizetti	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Giannetta
Giannini	<i>Beauty & the Beast</i>	Beauty
Gluck	<i>Orphée et Eurydice</i>	Eurydice
Handel	<i>Partenope</i>	Partenope
Mechem	<i>Tartuffe</i>	Mariane
Mozart	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Susanna
Poulenc	<i>Le mamelles de Tirésias</i>	Therese/Tirésias
Simon	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Lily
Sokolovic	<i>Six voix pour sirènes</i>	Soprano 4
Wagner	<i>Das Rheingold</i>	Woglinde

CONCERT/ORATORIO

Barber	<i>Knoxville: Summer of 1915</i>	
Handel	<i>Messiah</i>	Soprano soloist
Mahler	<i>Symphony no. 4</i>	Soprano soloist

SCENES/EXCERPTS

Mozart	<i>Così fan tutte</i> : "Soave sia il vento" (Fiordiligi) <i>Don Giovanni</i> : Sextet (Donna Anna) <i>Le Clemenza di Tito</i> : "Ah perdona al primo affetto" (Servillia)	
Strauss	<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i> : Presentation of the Rose, Final Trio (Sophie)	

ARIAS

Bellini	<i>I Capuletti e i Montecchi</i>	"O quante volte"
Cipullo	<i>Glory Denied</i>	"My Darling, Jim"
Floyd	<i>Susannah</i>	"Ain't it a pretty night"
Handel	<i>Giulio Cesare</i> <i>Partenope</i>	"Piangeró la sorte mia" "Voglio amare" "Qual farfaletta"
Gounod	<i>Roméo et Juliette</i>	"Je veux vivre"
Lehar	<i>Die lustige Witwe</i>	"Vilja"
Massenet	<i>Manon</i>	"Gavotte"
Mozart	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i> <i>Don Giovanni</i> <i>Le nozze di Figaro</i> <i>Idomeneo</i>	"Ach ich fühls" "Batti batti o bel Masetto" "Venite inginocchiatevi" "Deh vieni, non tardar" "Padre, germani, addio!"

Poulenc	<i>Les mamelles de Tirésias</i>	"Non monsieur mon mari!"
Puccini	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i> <i>La bohème</i>	"O mio babbino caro" "Quando men vo"
Strauss	<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>	"Ich bin eure Liebden sehr verbunden"
Verdi	<i>Falstaff</i>	"Sul fil d'un soffio etesio"

ART SONG

Barber	"Knoxville: Summer of 1915"
Beach	Three Browning Songs (full set), Three Shakespeare Songs (full set)
Berg	Sieben früher Lieder (full set)
Chaminade	"L'été", "Villanelle", "La lune paresseuse"
Debussy	Ariettes oubliées (full set), 3 chansons de bilitis (full set)
Fauré	"C'est l'extase", "Green"
Mahler	"Scheiden und Meiden", "Hans und Grete"
Mendelssohn	"Neue Liebe"
Poulenc	La courte paille (full set), "Les chemins de l'amour"
Schoenberg	"Erhebung"
Schubert	"Lied der Delphine", "Der Hirt auf dem Felsen", "Du liebst mich nicht", "Frühlingsglaube", "Ganymed", "Gretchen am Spinnrade", "Gretchen im Zwinger", "Heimliches Lieben", "Nur wer die Sehnsucht kennt", "Romanze aus Rosamunde", "Viola"
C. Schumann	"Lorelei"
R. Schumann	Liederkreis, op. 39 (full set)
Strauss	3 Lieder der Ophelia (full set), "Allerseelen", "Das Rosenband", "Die Georgine", "Heimliche Aufforderung", "Malven", "Ruhe meine Seele", "Schlechtes Wetter", "Wiegenlied"
Wolf	Mörrike Lieder: "An eine Äolsharfe", "Begegnung", "Elfenlied", "Er ist's", "Im Frühling", "Lebe Wohl", "Lied vom Winde"
	Italienisches Liederbuch: "Wenn du, mein Liebster steigst zum Himmel auf", "Mein Liebster singt am Haus"





