



# ERIN WAGNER | Mezzo-Soprano

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YOUNG CONCERT  
ARTISTS

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## BIOGRAPHY

Erin Wagner, Mezzo-soprano, Naumburg Vocal Award Winner, and Houston Grand Opera Butler Studio alumna is originally from El Paso, TX and is passionate about sharing music which represents modern and diverse perspectives. She recently won the George and Nora London Foundation Competition, The Gerda Lissner Foundation Lieder Competition, and the Opera Index Competition. Upon graduating from The HGO Butler Studio, Erin received the 2024 Richard F. Gold Career Grant from The Shoshana Foundation. Erin's 2024/25 season includes her Metropolitan Opera debut in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* (Unborn Voice 3, Servant 2), her debut with Louisville Orchestra as Der Trommler in Ullmann's *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, her Morgan Library Recital Debut where she will present her program "To Come Back" (*Rückert Lieder* arranged for chamber ensemble and a staged version of *From The Diary Of Virginia Woolf*), appearances with Brooklyn Art Song Society and New York Festival of Song, and debuts with Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra (Bruckner's *Te Deum*) and Maryland Symphony Orchestra (Beethoven's *9th Symphony*). Erin joined Wolf Trap Opera as a Filene Artist to debut the role of Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in 2024 and will return in 2025 to debut the roles of Blanche de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites* and *Mercédès* in *Carmen*. Erin joined the Houston Grand Opera Butler Studio in 2022 to hone her skills as an operatic singer and to perform in *Parsifal* (Blumenmädchen, Voice from Above), *Madama Butterfly* (Kate Pinkerton), *The Sound of Music* (Sister Margaretta), *The Wreckers* (Jack), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Cherubino study cover, Barbarina), *Salome* (Page), and the HGO Butler Studio Scenes Showcase (*Mélisande*, *Béatrice*, *Miss Jessel*, *Frau Reich* and *Larina*). Erin is currently a student of Dr. Stephen King. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School where she studied with Darrell Babidge and was a Gluck Community Service Fellow. While at Juilliard she won the 2021 Juilliard Vocal Arts Honors Recital with a recital program exploring the relationship between memory and color alongside her frequent collaborator and fellow duo member, Shawn Chang. Wagner and Chang performed a recital discussing the affliction of women in the 2021 Naumburg Foundation Vocal Competition in which Erin was awarded first place. Consequently, Erin and Shawn made their Carnegie Hall debuts for The Naumburg Foundation in a recital entitled "But How Things Change". The program explored the collective and individual experiences brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic with music by Edie Hill, Fauré, Ravel, Errollyn Wallen, Shawn Chang, and Mahler. For this recital Erin commissioned Shawn to set text from her father's childhood that depicted his life as a mischievous child living with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, a rare and debilitating bone disorder. Their next recital for The Naumburg Foundation, "Touching the Living Garden", included a commission by Errollyn Wallen entitled *JOY*, a setting of Jorge Luis Borges by Shawn, two songs by Ukrainian composer Stefania Turkewich, and excerpts from Mahler's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* and Messiaen's *Harawi*, the recital centers around the duality and coexistence of joy and hardship. Erin was awarded first prize at the 2022 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, receiving debuts at The Kennedy Center and Merkin Hall as well as artistic management and guidance from an organization which has represented and guided many important artists including Julia Bullock, Sasha Cooke, and Dawn Upshaw. Erin returned to the Aspen Music Festival as a Renée Fleming Artist in 2023 to sing the role of Idamante under the baton of Robert Spano in Francesca Zambello's production of *Idomeneo* featuring Matthew Polenzani in the title role. She also performed orchestrated Lieder of Schubert with Nicholas McGegan, Argento's *From The Diary of Virginia Woolf*, and scenes from *Les Dialogues des Carmélites* (Blanche) and *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Komponist). She was a member of the 2022 Merola Opera Program where she reprised *Zweite Dame* in *Die Zauberflöte*, performed in a scene from Golijov's *Ainadamar*, sang in Craig Terry's "A Celebration of American Song", and performed scenes from *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Komponist) and *Carmen* (Mercédès) in the Grand Finale Concert at the San Francisco Opera House. While at Merola, Erin won the Schwabacher Recital Debut Auditions, she returned in May 2023 to make her recital debut at San Francisco Opera in a recital program called "Everything Must Change": a sequel to her previous recital program that discusses the ways society has failed to progress but affirms the opportunity we have collectively to make change. She shared the music of Franz Schubert, Stefania Turkewich, Viktor Ullmann, Shawn Chang, Radiohead, and Benard Ighner alongside Shawn Chang at the piano. As a 2021 Renée Fleming Artist at Aspen Music Festival, Erin performed *Zweite Dame* in *Die Zauberflöte*, Unulfo in *Rodelinda*, and in scenes from *Così Fan Tutte* (Dorabella), *La clemenza di Tito* (Annio), and *Semele* (Ino). While at Juilliard Erin performed in Brian Zeger's Songfest both in 2019 and 2021, in *The Mother of Us All* with the NY Philharmonic at the MET Museum, as Giovanna Seymour in a scene from *Anna Bolena*, and in Pierre Vallet's Liederabend. She was awarded 2nd Place in the 2021 Houston Saengerbund Competition and is a recipient of a grant from The Gerda Lissner Foundation 2021 Lieder Competition. She has performed with Steve Blier's NYFOS at Caramoor in their "Tour de France" and at the Kaufman Center in "Next 9 Under 34", a program exploring artsong by the current generation of living composers, and "All Together Now", a program featuring YCA singers. Erin's undergraduate degree is from The Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Joan Patenaude-Yarnell. She has previously studied at Renée Fleming's SongStudio, The Chautauqua Institution, SongFest as a Colburn Fellow, and Matthew Rose's Scuola di Bel Canto.