

Kelly Clarke is an American mezzo-soprano based in New York City and Toronto, ON. Often praised for her dramatic voice and unique timbre, she is a dynamic artist capable of diverse and challenging roles.

This summer, Ms. Clarke returned for her second year as a Studio Artist at Chautauqua Opera. At Chautauqua, she covered the lead role of Isabelle in a recital version of Missy Mazzoli's *Song from the Uproar*, and was also the Alto in the ensemble. She also performed excerpts as Hannah After from Laura Kaminsky's *As One*. Ms. Clarke is very passionate about performing new work and is honored to have been able to partake in these works by female composers.

At Chautauqua Opera, she has also covered the roles of Olga in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin (in English)* and Flora in Verdi's *La Traviata*. In the scenes program she appeared as Isabella from Rossini's *L'italiana in Algeri* and Mistress Page in Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor (in English)*.

Ms. Clarke attended Mannes College where she received her Masters of Music and Professional Studies Diploma in Vocal Performance.

At her time at Mannes, Ms. Clarke participated in the Mannes Opera Young Artist program. With the Mannes Opera, Kelly was graced in performing the title role of Lucretia in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*; La zia Principessa in Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, the Minskwoman in Jonathan Dove's *Flight*, Marchesa Melibea in Rossini's *il viaggio a Reims*; The Mother in Stravinsky's *Mavra*; and Donna Rosa in Catan's *il Postino*.

She also performed in scenes from Massenet's *Werther* and *La Navarraise*, Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* and Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*. She also performed Brahms's *Vier Ernste Gesänge*.

During her time at Mannes Ms. Clarke has coached with Joshua Greene, Susan Caldwell, Susan Woodruff-Versage, Ted Taylor, and Christina Stanescu and has sung under the baton of Joseph Colaneri.

Ms. Clarke received her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from SUNY Purchase. Working with Purchase Opera she held several crucial roles in the organization's productions, including the title role in Bizet's *Carmen*; Madame de la Haultière in Massenet's *Cendrillon*; and The Mother in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

At SUNY Purchase, Ms. Clarke also had the pleasure of performing scenes from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Rossini's *Cenerentola* and Otto Nicolai's *Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor*. She coached with Joan Kreuger and Hugh Murphy. Her voice teacher at both SUNY Purchase and Mannes is Bonnie Hamilton.

Ms. Clarke was born and raised in Greenville, SC where she began her vocal studies and discovered opera at the age of 16 under the instruction of Michael Rice at the Greenville County Fine Arts Center.