

KRISTEN MARIE GILLIS

Soprano

+1 (512) 296-4552 | kmarie.soprano@gmail.com | kristenmariegillis.com



Black Mexican-American soprano, Kristen Marie Gillis, is a blossoming young artist - sharing her work on both opera and concert stages.

Ms. Gillis is excited to open her 24/25 as she joins **Finger Lakes Opera** as a Tomita Young Artist. During her time with FLO, she will perform the role of Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*, as well as cover the leading role of Florine in the newly-commissioned opera, *Two Corners*, by B.E. Boykin and Jarrod Lee. Kristen will also be featured in many community engagement events, including FLO's Juneteenth program and an "Out Loud at the M.A.G." concert. The remainder of her 24/25 season will be announced soon.

Highlights from her 23/24 season include making her professional debut with **Central City Opera** as a Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Studio Artist. There, she was featured in scenes as 'Madeline' in Henry Mollicone's *Face on the Barroom Floor*, 'Fiordiligi' (*Così fan tutte*), and 'Countess Rosina Almaviva' (*Le nozze di Figaro*). Kristen also presented a recital as part of CCO's "Lunch and a Song" recital series. In Fall 2023, Ms. Gillis joined **Opera Ithaca's** Apprentice Artist program where she made her company debut as the 'First Wood-sprite', 'Turnspit', as well as covering the titular role of *Rusalka*. In competition, she was named a Winner of the Gigli International Scholarship Competition, Semi-Finalist in both the Artist Division of the Camille Coloratura Competition and the SAS Performing Arts Company Voice Competition, and will compete in the Opera Division of the Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition.

In her 22/23 season, Kristen was seen on stage as 'Eliza' in Nico Muhly's *Dark Sisters*, 'Mutter' (*Hansel und Gretel*), and in scenes as 'Donna Anna' (*Don Giovanni*) and the title role of *Norma* - all with **Temple Opera Theater**. In concert, Ms. Gillis was the Soprano I soloist in Mozart's *Missa in C minor* with the Abilene Christian University **A Cappella Chorus**. She also joined the Vocal Immersion Program at **Castleton Festival** as a Resident Artist. In competition, Kristen was named a Winner of the Career Bridges Grant Awards, Third Prize Winner of the Mario Lanza Scholarship Competition. Winner of the Boyer College of Music and Dance Student Soloist Competition - later performing Violetta's Act I aria, "Sempre libera" with the Temple University Symphony Orchestra. She also advanced as a Semi-Finalist in the Dallas Opera Guild Biennial Lonestar Vocal Competition and was a Finalist in the Opera Ithaca Edward M. Murray International Competition of Voice.

In previous seasons, Ms. Gillis was seen on stage as 'Countess Rosina Almaviva' (*Le nozze di Figaro*), 'Second Lady' (*Die Zauberflöte*), 'Lauretta' (*Gianni Schicchi*), the title role of Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, and in scenes as 'Cunegone' (*Candide*), 'Carolina' (*Il matrimonio segreto*), 'Marschallin' (*Der Rosenkavalier*), *Arabella* and *Susannah*. Kristen has been the Soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Faure's *Requiem*, and Hadyn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai*. In competition, she has previously competed in the formerly named Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions as a Midwest Regional Finalist after being named a Winner of the Tulsa District. Ms. Gillis is an alumnus of Red River Lyric Opera and Taos Opera Institute summer training programs.

Kristen currently resides in Philadelphia, PA, where she continues her studies with mezzo-soprano Kathryn Leemhuis. Originally from Texas, she is a proud first-generation college graduate - holding degrees from Temple University and Abilene Christian University.

KRISTEN MARIE GILLIS

Soprano

+1 (512) 296-4552 | kmarie.soprano@gmail.com | kristenmariegillis.com



Black Mexican-American soprano, Kristen Marie Gillis, is a rising young artist - sharing her passion for the art on both opera and concert stages. Most recently, Kristen joined Finger Lakes Opera as a Tomita Young Artist, where she made her role debut as 'Nella' (Gianni Schicchi) and covered the leading role of 'Florine' in the world premiere of B.E. Boykin and Jarrod Lee's *Two Corners*. She also joined Opera Ithaca's Apprentice Artist Program, portraying the roles of 'First Wood-sprite', 'Turnspit' and covering the title role of *Rusalka*. Previous credits include 'Eliza' (*Dark Sisters*), 'Mutter' (*Hansel und Gretel*), Countess Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), Lauretta (Gianni Schicchi), and Suor Angelica. In concert, she has been the Soprano soloist in *Missa in C minor* (Mozart), *Messiah* (Handel), *Requiem* (Faure), and *Missa Sancti Nicolai* (Hady). As an avid competitor, Ms. Gillis has received awards from the Career Bridges Grant Awards, Gigli International Scholarship Competition, Mario Lanza Scholarship Competition, and the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. Originally from Central Texas, Kristen is a proud first-generation college graduate, holding degrees from Temple University and Abilene Christian University.