

ELENA BIRD ZOLNICK

With a rich timbre and effortless coloratura, soprano Elena Bird Zolnick is a versatile, accomplished artist who brings vocal clarity and energetic character to the stage and conducting podium. Equally comfortable in opera, concert, and musical theatre repertoire, Elena holds a DMA in Voice Performance and Choral Conducting at the University of Minnesota.

Elena recently returned to her home state of Alaska to sing the soprano solos in Handel's *Messiah* for Anchorage Community Chorus and Orchestra's 70th Anniversary Season. Later that season, she brought opera to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula for the first time in three decades, performing Lucy in Menotti's *The Telephone*, with the Performing Arts Society of the Kenai Peninsula. Elena then made her debut with New Jersey Festival Orchestra, singing Annina in *La traviata*, with David Wroe conducting. Recently, Elena also performed the roles of Isabelle, Suor Genovieffa, and Nella, in *The Face on the Barroom Floor*, *Suor Angelica*, and *Gianni Schicchi*, at Fargo-Moorhead Opera as part of their Young Artist Program. Other recent appearances include performances in Los Angeles as part of OperaWorks' Advanced Artist program and recording/starring in the title role of *Germaine*, a new opera by composer Wayne Walters.

Other roles include Sandrina (*La finta giardiniera*), Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*), Miss Wordsworth (*Albert Herring*), Lucy Lockit (*The Beggar's Opera*), and Königen der Nacht (*Die Zauberflöte*). Ms. Bird covered the roles of Zerlina and Giulietta while serving as an Artist-In-Residence with New York Lyric Opera Theater, where she also performed as a recitalist.

Her passion for sacred music, oratorio, and art song has led to concert appearances in Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, and Salzburg. Elena has performed twice with New Jersey's Masterwork Chorus, singing the soprano solos in Fauré's *Requiem* and Schubert's *Mass in G*. This summer, she was the soprano soloist for Wayne Walter's *Requiem in D minor* with Delaware Valley Choral society, and appeared with Harmonium Choral Society as the soprano soloist for Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* in April 2019.

Dr. Zolnick has been seen as Miss Dorothy (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), Gianetta (*The Gondoliers*), and Fairy Godmother (*The True Story of Cinderella*) with Light Opera of New Jersey, as well as Johanna in *Sweeney Todd*. An advocate of community outreach and bringing new audiences to opera and classical voice, she performed as Rusalka in Florida State University's outreach production, *Rusalka, the Littlest Mermaid*, and performed for over 5,000 students as a Gate City Bank Young Artist with Fargo-Moorhead Opera.

In addition to her D.M.A., Dr. Zolnick holds a Master of Music degree in Voice Performance from Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She resides in St. Paul, Minnesota, with her husband, three children, and springer spaniel.