

Hailing from Peoria, Illinois, **Melanie Bietz** has performed solo concerts throughout the Midwest and California and has collaborated in performances with instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and a Master of Music degree in Performance from California State University, Sacramento. While at CSU, Sacramento, she distinguished herself by performing a solo recital of the music of Frederic Rzewski at the Festival of New American Music. She has adjudicated for Festivals and Competitions throughout northern California as well as for the Music Teachers' Association of California and the National Piano Guild. She maintains a studio of students in Sacramento and Davis, CA as well as online students worldwide.

Soprano, Courtney Daniels, has impressed audience members with her charismatic stage presence and powerful voice. As Donna Elvira, "Daniels wowed the crowd in her love/hate relationship with [Don] Giovanni and the crowd went wild when she sang her powerful aria [mi tradi quell'alma ingrata] during the Second Act" (Davis Tribune). Her love for the art is evident in the passion she brings to each and every character she plays, aided by velvet tones, soaring high notes and an agile upper register.

Courtney's love of opera began at an early age. Her first exposure to opera was at the age of seven when she watched the entirety of Madame Butterfly on PBS, reading all of the subtitles and discussing the material with her babysitter. Courtney's interest continued once her family moved to Nashville, where she continued to study voice and at 16 was the youngest chorus member of the Nashville Opera's production of Aida.

Courtney was awarded the Gold Medal (Classical Vocal Division) in the the 2022 World Classical Music Competition, as well as First Place at the 2022 American Protégé Vocal Competition (Amateur-Operatic Aria Division), and First Place at the 2022 SFBAC NATS Classical Singing Festival Competition.

Recently, Courtney made her international debut in Berlin, singing Suor Genovieffa in Suor Angelica, where she also workshopped and performed excerpts of Die Fledermaus, as Rosalinde. Additional roles performed include: Marguerite in Gounod's Faust, Donna Elvira in Mozart's Don Giovanni, Nedda in Pagliacci (Act I for Scenes Production); Adina in Donizetti's L'elisir d'amore, La Frugola in Puccini's Il tabarro, and the High Priestess in Verdi's Aida. When not performing, Courtney enjoys horseback riding and spending time with her husband Jeff and their "fur-children."

## **JENNIFER REASON**

Hailed as a pianist "in the league of Carnegie Hall," a "rising star" whose playing is "lush, sensual and colorful: like a painting" (Sulzbach-Rosenberger, Germany), a "powerhouse" (Victor Forman, CPR), and one who "possesses an extraordinary skill" (D. Frantztreb, SCC), Jennifer Reason is a vibrant young performer in consistent demand, and the recipient of Sacramento Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40 Award for 2016.

She gave her first solo recital at the age of 5, and has since gone on to appear in solo and ensemble performances across Europe, the United States and Canada, including such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall and the Vatican. Festival appearances include the Festival of Peace and Brotherhood in Italy, the Interharmony International festival in Germany, the Schlern International Festival in Italy, and the Orfeo International Festival in Italy.

Dearest to Ms. Reason's heart is collaborative work, and as such she is the Artistic Director of the Emmy-nominated acapella ensemble RSVP, founding member of the contemporary sextet Citywater, and the recently appointed Music Director of the Rogue Music Project, an opera company she co founded with long time collaborators Carrie Hennessey and Omari Tau. She has shared the stage with such noteworthy artists/personalities as John Rutter, members of Journey, Tower of Power, Santana, Sly and the Family Stone, Governor Jerry Brown and Billy Bob Thornton.

Away from the concert hall, Ms. Reason is the Midday Classical Host for Capital Public Radio ([www.capradio.org/music](http://www.capradio.org/music)) and a Voting Member of the Recording Academy for the Grammys.

[www.jennifer-reason.com](http://www.jennifer-reason.com)

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