

Soprano Laquita Mitchell

Fall of 2010 Ms. Mitchell will sing the role of Mimi with the Utah Opera, Christmas concert with the Augusta Opera and Symphony and will make her Atlanta Opera debut in the role of Bess in Gershwin's Porgy and Bess early 2011.

Mitchell's 2009- 2010 season included the role of Sharon Graham in Terrence McNally's "Master Class" starring Tyne Daly at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni with Opera New Jersey, the role of Bess in Porgy and Bess with Greg Baker at the New Jersey State Opera. She made her Carnegie Hall debut as the soprano soloist singing Mozart's Solemn Vespers and Vivaldi's Gloria in May of 2010. Ms. Mitchell was honored at her Alma Mater, the Manhattan School of Music and awarded the "Distinguished Young Alumni Award of 2009".

Ms. Mitchell's 2008-2009 season included her Lyric Opera of Chicago debut as Clara in Porgy and Bess, and covering the title role in Madama Butterfly, under Sir Andrew Davis. Additionally, she took part in the world premiere of composer Steven Stucky's "August 4, 1964" with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Mitchell was heard and praised for her compelling portrayal of the role of Bess in George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess at the San Francisco Opera, making her house debut. "Soprano Laquita Mitchell, in her first outing as Bess, dazzled the SFO audience with her purity of tone and vivid theatrical presence."~ Georgia Rowe, Opera News

Recent notable engagements included a return to Los Angeles Opera for performances of Musetta in La Bohème conducted by Placido Domingo, Leonora in Il Trovatore with Nashville Opera, Clara in Porgy and Bess with the Opéra Comique in Paris, Caen and Spain, Donna Anna in Don Giovanni with Florentine Opera and Portland Opera, Micaëla in Carmen with Opera Pacific and New York City Opera, and Clara in Porgy and Bess with Los Angeles Opera and Washington National Opera. Mitchell also made her debut with the Cincinnati Opera as Mimi in La Bohème, in the spring of 2005.

Also active as a concert artist, Ms. Mitchell has performed with the Louisville Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Garden State Philharmonic where she performed in concert with Branford Marsalis. Mitchell made her Boston Symphony Orchestra debut as the soprano soloist in Wynton Marsalis' work "All Rise", under the direction of Kurt Masur at the Tanglewood Festival. In the spring of 2005, Ms. Mitchell sang the soprano solo in Tippett's "A Child of our Time" with the Washington Chorus at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Mitchell is an alumna of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, and while she was with that company, she performed a variety of roles including Orquidea in Daniel Catan's Salsipuedes (world premiere), Myhrine in Mark Adamo's Lysistrata (world premiere), the First Lady in The Magic Flute, conducted by Claus Peter Flor, Barena in David Alden's production of Jenůfa, conducted by Dennis Russell Davies, Valencienne in The Merry Widow, Javotte in Manon, and The Water in the The Little Prince by Rachel

Portman (world premiere) in a production directed by Francesca Zambello and conducted by HGO Music Director Patrick Summers.

Ms. Mitchell was a member of the Wolf Trap Opera Company, where she sang the roles of Alice Ford in Salieri's Falstaff and Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni. She also was a member of the San Francisco Opera Merola Program where she sang the role of Mimi in La Boheme garnering rave reviews for her interpretation.

A native of New York City, soprano Laquita Mitchell was a 2004 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Grand Prize Winner as well as a 2004 Sara Tucker Award recipient. Ms. Mitchell was also the First Prize Winner of the Wiener Kammer Oper's 2003 Hans Gabor Belvedere Competition, making her the first American to win this competition in over twenty years. Additionally, in February 2002, Ms. Mitchell was the First Prize Winner of the Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition for Young Singers, as well as the winner of the Audience Choice award.

Ms. Mitchell completed her Masters of Music degree and the Professional Studies Certificate at the Manhattan School of Music, and also completed undergraduate studies at Westminster Choir College. While at Manhattan School, Ms. Mitchell performed the roles of the Female Chorus in Britten's The Rape of Lucretia and Vitellia in La clemenza di Tito – both conducted by Julius Rudel. She also sang Violetta in La Traviata, and Micaela in Carmen. She received the Hugh Ross Award and the 2000 Panasonic Harmony Scholars Award that included her debut at Alice Tully Hall with the New York Symphonic Ensemble.