

# Melanie Walker

## Soprano

---



A prolific soloist, sought-after choral singer, and versatile concert artist, soprano Melanie Walker strives to perform a wide variety of vocal repertoire, ranging from classical music, to opera, secular, sacred, musical theater, and contemporary music. In the 23/24 season, Melanie was the Faculty Soloist for Duruflé's **Requiem** with the Alma College Choirs and Symphony under the direction of Christopher Cock, was the soprano soloist in Mozart's **Requiem** at The People's Church under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Reed, and sang in the Street

Singer chorus for Bernstein's **MASS** under the direction of Rachael Bergan and conducted by Austin Williams at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids, MI. Other recent performances include the soprano soloist in Haydn's **Lord Nelson Mass** under the direction of Dr. Jonathan Reed, the high soprano soloist in Handel's **Dixit Dominus** with the Michigan State University Chorale and The 1865 Players Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Dr. David Rayl, the chorus of Beethoven's **Symphony No. 9** and Hannah Lash's **In Hopes of Finding the Sun** with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Jader Bignamini, and the soprano soloist in Ralph Vaughan Williams **Serenade to Music**. Operatic roles include Arminda (**La Finta Giardiniera**), covering Miss Wordsworth (**Albert Herring**), Infermiera (**Suor Angelica**), and Girl 2/Actor 2 (**ANON**).

A seasoned concert performer, Ms. Walker has performed as the soprano soloist in various large scale choral and chamber works, including Vivaldi's **Gloria**, Haydn's **Kleine Orglemesse** Mozart's **Laudate Dominum**, Faure's **Requiem**, Bach's **Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt**, and many more. She has performed in numerous collegiate and local choral ensembles across Michigan, including The Collegium Musicum Early Music Ensemble, Western Michigan University Chorale, The Celebris Ensemble, The Lange Ensemble, Riverbend Voices, the Michigan State University Chorale, Chamber and Practicum ensembles, and the Mosaic: Women's Ensemble. Melanie is currently a roster member of **Mirabai** under the direction of Dr. Sandra Snow and **Chorosynthesis** under the leadership of Dr. Jeremiah Selvey and Dr. Wendy Moy. She is additionally featured on recordings **Ex Corde: Songs from the Heart** and **Contemplating Weather** under Bridge Records with the Western Michigan University Chorale under the direction of Dr. Kimberly Dunn Adams, and currently serves as the soprano soloist and section leader at The Peoples Church of East Lansing, MI.

In addition to operatic and choral repertoire, Melanie remains deeply passionate about the discovery and performance of new, contemporary works. She most recently premiered Christopher A. Kaminski's commissioned work **Rekindle** in 2021 in celebration of the installation of Dr. Rev. Shawnthea Monroe at The People's Church, Philip Lasser's **Les Roses de Saadi** at The Peabody Conservatory as a part of the 2019 Sylvia Adalman Chamber Series, and **I wanna fly** by Duncan Peterson-Jones at Michigan State University in December of 2016. In the same year, she was selected to be a participant in the North American premiere of **Elegy** at Western Michigan University, a voice/art installation conceived and composed by South African artist Gabrielle Goliath to bring light to the violent, sexual atrocities occurring against young women in Africa. Melanie continues to work with both emerging and professional composers to premiere, perform, and promote new works for the voice.

Melanie holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Voice Performance from Michigan State University, a Master of Music in Voice Performance from The Peabody Conservatory, and a Bachelor of Music from Western Michigan University. She currently serves as an Adjunct Instructor of Voice at Alma College, and is a Supervisor in the Ticket Office at The Wharton Center for Performing Arts in East Lansing, MI.

May 2024