

## MARY BELLA

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soprano

In Handel's *Messiah* with the Newfoundland Symphony, soprano **Mary Bella** "...seemed to light up every time she sang, exuding enormous warmth and brightness" said the *Evening Telegram*, "When it comes to Handelian airs, she's just what the doctor ordered... she made it seem effortless." An avid concert and recital artist, Ms Bella's recent highlights include her debut with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir in Brahms' *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem* with Pax Christi Chorale, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and the world première of Imant Raminsh's *Te Deum* with Chorus Niagara, and Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, *Exultate Jubilate*, *Requiem* and *Vesperae Solennes*, Haydn's *Mass in Time of War* and Beethoven's *Mass in C* with Toronto Classical Singers. She looks forward to appearing again with Toronto Classical Singers again this year, in Beethoven's *Lobengesang*.

In recital, Mary has appeared for the Aldeburgh Connection, the Toronto Arts and Letters Club, Trinity St. Paul's Church, the Toronto Wagner Society, the Toronto Mozart Society and Montréal's Debut series at La Chapelle Historique du bon-Pasteur. In addition, she recently contributed her talents to the prestigious Toronto Opera Ball, and was a semi-finalist at the 2002 Jeunesses Musicales International Competition in Montreal. Mary also enjoys performing in a series of duet recitals with her husband, tenor Michael Colvin - they were most recently engaged for Hart House Concert Series' 600<sup>th</sup> Concert Gala as well as North York Performing Arts Association's Fabulous Fridays series.

On the opera stage, Ms Bella most recently appeared as the Second Lady in *The Magic Flute* with Manitoba Opera, and toured as The Queen, First Lady and Papagena with the Canadian Opera Company. She also performed in a workshop presentation of Dean Burry's new opera *The Brother's Grimm* with the COC, and looks forward to performing the role of Cis in *Albert Herring* with the COC this year. Ms Bella has also sung Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* for the Orford Arts Centre, Tiny in the Canadian première of Benjamin Britten's *Paul Bunyan* and Serpenta in Mozart's *La finta giardiniera*, conducted by Mario Bernardi. Her Montréal performance in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* was described by critics as "simply outstanding. She sang wily Poppea with so rich a voice and so much seductive vocal beauty that the title of empress seemed the least she deserved for such art" (*The Montreal Gazette*). Other opera credits include the title role in *Bartered Bride* by Smetana, Aloés in Chabrier's *L'étoile*, Nina in Donizetti's *Il giovedì grasso* and excerpts from Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, the Governess in Britten's *Turn of the Screw*, Mimi in *La Bohème*, Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*, and Idamante in Mozart's *Idomeneo*. Ms Bella has also performed in several French Baroque Opera pastiches with the period dance troupe La Belle Danse.

In 2001, Ms Bella recorded a CD with "Classical Kids" entitled *A Classical Kids Christmas*, which has met with great critical acclaim and been broadcast repeatedly on international radio stations "...the Polish Lullaby, stunningly sung by Mary Bella, whose voice pours forth in a cathedral of grand magnificence" (Lance G. Hill, MBC). Ms Bella also recorded a short film soundtrack for Bravo Television, a new work by Canadian composer Dean Burry called *Grace*.

Born in Edmonton, Alberta, Mary Bella holds a Masters in Music Performance and an Opera Diploma from the University of Toronto, as well as a Bachelor of Music with honours from Memorial University of Newfoundland. She has also studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England, McGill University and the Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh, England. Ms Bella has been the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, including the prestigious Eaton Graduating Scholarship from the University of Toronto.

Visit Ms Bella's website [www.marybella.com](http://www.marybella.com) for more information and upcoming performances.