

Kristen Darragh mezzo soprano

Mezzo soprano Kristen Darragh is one of New Zealand's most exciting upcoming operatic talents. She is now based in Berlin, Germany and studies with world renowned New York teacher, Patricia McCaffrey. She graduated in 2009 from the Royal Academy of Music Opera Course in London, where she studied with Joy Mammen and Audrey Hyland as a Karaviotis Scholar.

Kristen was an Emerging Artist with **The NBR New Zealand Opera**, where she made her debut as Fyodor in Boris Godunov, and has since returned to perform the roles of Giovanna in Rigoletto, Siebel in Faust, Isabella in L'Italiana in Algeri and most recently, Olga in Eugene Onegin. Kristen's UK operatic experience includes The Stewardess in Jonathan Dove's *Flight* and Florence Pike *Albert Herring* (British Youth Opera); The Musico *Manon Lescaut* (Opera Holland Park); Baba the Turk *The Rake's Progress* (Dartington); Third Lady *The Magic Flute* (Opera del Mar); Zita *Gianni Schicchi* (Opera Fringe Northern Ireland) Roles for **Royal Academy Opera** include Cherubino *Le Nozze di Figaro* under the direction of John Copley and the baton of Sir Colin Davis; Zita *Gianni Schicchi* and the title role in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*. Opera scenes include Orlofsky *Die Fledermaus*, Erika *Vanessa*, Cesare *Giulio Cesare*, Hermia *A Midsummer Nights Dream* and Octavian *Der Rosenkavalier*.

Kristen has performed regularly on the concert platform in the UK, most notably as the soloist in Vivaldi's Gloria and Mozart's Requiem at London's St Martin-in-the-Fields. She holds a BA in English Literature from the University of Auckland and has experience in acting for both theatre and television. In 2008 Kristen was a finalist in the Royal Overseas League Competition and was awarded a scholarship from the **Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation** to take part in the Solti Accademia di Bel Canto in Italy. Last year she was the Young Artist for The NBR New Zealand Opera, a finalist in the Lexus Song Quest and was invited to sing Carmen Arias in concert with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra. Kristen looks forward to returning home to sing with the NBR New Zealand Opera again in 2011.

