**Rachel Schutz, Soprano**

Hailed for her “diamantine high notes, witty characterization, and giddily delirious coloratura” (*Boston Globe*), Welsh-American soprano Rachel Schutz is known for her sensitive and evocative performances and wide range of repertoire. She enjoys a multi-faceted career which includes opera, concert, and recital performances, and her 2020 season engagements include her debut solo recital at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall, Zhou Long’s *Men of Iron and the Golden Spike* with the Shenzhen Symphony in China, a return to Opera Ithaca playing Susanna in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*, and a number of recitals at the Yellow Barn Festival in Vermont.

During recent seasons, Ms. Schutz won first place in both the 44th NATS Artist Award competition and the Pro Musicis Competition, gave world premieres at Carnegie Hall’s Stern Auditorium and Weill Hall, appeared in Opera Parallèle's production of *Les enfants terribles* (Glass), sang Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Hawaiʻi Symphony Orchestra, gave solo recitals in Hawai’i, New York, China and Thailand, and appeared at numerous festival including Cornell’s Mayfest, the Mostly Modern Festival, and Yellow Barn.

Ms. Schutz has been praised for her "vibrant, convincing stage presence" (*San Francisco Examiner*) and "vivacious spirit" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) on the opera stage. Her recent opera roles have included Lise in Glass's *Les enfants terribles,* Thérèse in *Les mamelles de Tirésias* and Jessie in *Mahagonny Songspiel* with Opera Parallèle; Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*, Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* & Diana in Dove's *Siren Song* with Hawaiʻi Opera Theatre; Gretel in *Hansel und Gretel*, Adele in *Die Fledermaus* and Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Stockton Opera; and Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore* with the Santa Fe Opera. Other roles have included Musetta in *La Bohème*, Blondchen in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail,* Euridice in *Orpheus ed Euridice,* Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier,* Rose in *A Street Scene,* Gloria inHandel's *O come chiare e belle,* First Maid in *Daphne,* Zerlina in *Don Giovanni,* and St. Settlement in *Four Saints in Three Acts*.

Equally at home in concert repertoire, she has performed Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Dvořák's *Stabat Mater,* Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem* and Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* with the Hawaiʻi Symphony Orchestra, Ligeti's *Mysteries of the Macabre* with the Stony Brook Symphony, Imbrie's *Adam* with the Riverside Symphony and has toured with the Boston Pops Orchestra, singing, most notably, Bernstein's "Glitter and be gay."

A seasoned recitalist known for her "communicative zest" (*Boston Globe*), Ms. Schutz has been invited to perform at prestigious venues around the world including Carnegie Hall's Stern, Zankel and Weill Halls, the Ravinia Festival, the Ojai Festival, the Tanglewood Music Center, the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, the Honolulu Chamber Music Series, the Hawaiʻi Concert Society, the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, and venues in China, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand and Germany. She has performed with famed artists such as Dawn Upshaw, James Levine, James Conlon, JoAnne Faletta, Keith Lockhart, Leon Botstein, and Martin Katz.

Ms. Schutz is also a passionate supporter of new music and enjoys close working relationships with many young composers and new music ensembles. She has premiered dozens of new works, including pieces by Eugene Drucker (of the Emerson String Quartet), Michael-Thomas Fumai, Jeff Myers, Thomas Osborne, and Peter Winkler, and has worked with composers Brett Dean, John Musto, Phillip Glass, George Crumb, Milton Babbitt, Jonathan Dove, William Bolcom, Libby Larsen, Brett Dean, and Augusta Read-Thomas on their music.

In addition to winning the NATSAA competition, Ms. Schutz won third prize at the 2016 Jensen Foundation competition, was a finalist in the 2016 Hans Gabor Belvedere competition, and was the recipient of the 2012 Sorel Fellowship. She has been featured on Hawaiʻi's 88.1 KHPR and Chicago's WFMT, and can be heard singing Thomas Osborne's *Rumi Songs* on "Elements," an Albany Records album of contemporary American music, and Cone's "Silent Noon" on an Ebb & Flow Ensemble recording of Cone's chamber music.

Ms. Schutz is also an active community arts organizer. In 2017, she founded Artists for Social Justice which unites artists of different disciplines to bring awareness to pressing social justice issues such as immigration, civil rights, and climate change. The group presents performances in collaboration with other arts organizations and offers education and community art opportunities.

After making her professional debut at age 12 premiering John Hardy’s *The Roswell Incident* with Music Theatre Wales, Ms. Schutz began studying with Mark Gruett of the Deutsche Oper, Berlin. She holds a BA in Music from Stony Brook University, received her MM degree from the Dawn Upshaw-run Vocal Arts Program at Bard College, completed an MA in Linguistics at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa, and in 2016 received her DMA from Stony Brook University. She recently joined the voice faculty at Ithaca College.