



# Sing Operetta! Soloists

## Julie Ludwig

Julie Ludwig is a soprano and voice teacher based in Norfolk County. As a concert soloist, she has appeared with the Bach Elgar Choir, the Timmins Symphony, the Calgary Civic Symphony, the Toronto Concert Orchestra, and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra in their What Next Festival. Past operatic highlights include Lucia (The Rape of Lucretia) with Calgary Opera, Emmie (Albert Herring) at the Aldeburgh Music Festival in England, Despina (Cosi fan tutte) in a touring production with Jeunesses Musicales du Canada, Musetta (La Boheme) with the Windsor Symphony, and Adele (Die Fledermaus) with Opera5. From 2018-2021, she co-produced The Linden Project, a recital series dedicated to the performance of art song.



Julie teaches privately from her home and is the voice instructor at Redeemer University but has taken the last few months off in order to focus on fighting cancer. She's delighted to be joining the Stratford Concert Choir for such a playful programme of music, especially during this difficult chapter of her life. When she's not making music, Julie can be found with her three children or (less often) with her nose in a book.

# Maria Soulis

Toronto-born mezzo-soprano Maria Soulis began her career as a principal artist with the Regensburg Opera in Germany, performing the roles of Carmen, Rosina, Nicklausse, Dido, and Adalgisa in theatres throughout Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. In concert works from Bach to Mahler, her voice has been praised internationally by reviewers who have described it as “warm and powerful”, as well as “gorgeous, dusky-toned” with a “ruby red timbre.”

Maria’s 2019-20 season included *La Ciesca* in Gianni Schicchi and the Monitor in *Suor Angelica*, in Pacific Opera Victoria’s *Il Trittico*. Maria debuted as Marcellina in *Against the Grain* Theatres updated *Figaro’s Wedding*, appeared as Flosshilde in Pacific Opera Victoria’s *Das Rheingold*, and sang Clara in the world premiere of *Oksana G.* with Tapestry Opera.



Maria is honoured to have song cycles written for her by Canadian composers William Beauvais (*Rounding the Human Corners*), Colin Eatock (*Three Songs from “The Prophet”*), James Moffett (*Songs for a Summer’s Night*), and Constantine Caravassilis (*Four Songs from the Age of Rembetiko*).

Recent projects include a concert of chamber music for voice and string quartet, featuring Jake Heggie’s arrangement of Debussy’s *Chansons de Bilitis*, and Constantine Caravassilis’; *Four Songs from the Age of Rembetiko*, commissioned by and dedicated to Maria.

A member of the Toronto Heliconian Club, Maria performs often on its concert series as a singer and as a pianist and composer, recently performing excerpts from her piano suite, “*Memories, Greece*”. Maria Soulis can be heard on the Juno-nominated Naxos CD “*Vivaldi – Sacred Music*” with Kevin Mallon and Aradia Ensemble.

# Yanik Gosselin

In the 2025-2026 season, Yanik performed Blondel in Grétry's *Richard Coeur-de-lion* with Opera in Concert, earning praise as an "exemplar of the French lyric tradition" (*La Scena Musicale*). Season highlights include Edoardo Milfort in *La cambiale di matrimonio* (Glenn Gould School), and Tonio in *La fille du régiment* (Grande Prairie Opera); guest appearances with the Choeur du Moulin, the Avanti Singers, and the Stratford Concert Choir; opera pub performances with *Against the Grain* Theatre and *Opera Revue*; and writing and performing a solo cabaret, *BRAVA: A Cabaret of Devotions*, at the 2026 Toronto Fringe Festival.

Other notable roles include *Le Prince Charmant* in *Cendrillon* (Grande Prairie Opera), Raimbault in *Robert le diable* (Opera in Concert), Marco in *The Gondoliers* (Toronto Operetta Theatre), *Chevalier de la Force* in *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Glenn Gould School), Philips (*The Perfect Screw*), Ernesto (*Don Pasquale*), and Ruggiero (*La liberazione di Ruggiero*).

As a soloist, Yanik has performed in Mozart's *Requiem*, Honegger's *Le Roi David*, and Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle*. His curated recitals include *I give him songs...*, exploring love, loss and legacy, and featuring *Wind and Wood*, a song cycle composed for him by John Gordon Armstrong on poetry by Seymour Mayne.

Yanik has participated in residencies with the Banff Centre, Manitoba Opera, Tapestry Opera, the Association for Opera in Canada, OPERA America, and the National Arts Centre. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Art Song Project. He holds degrees from the University of Ottawa and McGill University.

Yanik is strongly committed to community engagement through stories and music.



# Giles Tomkins, bass baritone

Canadian/British bass baritone Giles Tomkins is widely praised for his vocal virtuosity and lyricism in an impressive range of repertoire. His rich, resonant voice brings “authority and power” to the concert and operatic stage, most recently as Leporello in *Don Giovanni* with Hamilton Philharmonic orchestra.

Giles has appeared as a guest soloist with many of Canada’s finest orchestras and choirs, including Regina Symphony, Windsor Symphony, Bach Elgar Choir, Symphony New Brunswick, Vancouver Bach Choir, Elmer Iseler Singers, and Chorus Niagara.

Acclaimed operatic roles for Giles include Fafner (*Das Rheingold*) and Hunding (*Die Walküre*) with Edmonton Opera, Timur (*Turandot*), Raimondo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Colline (*La bohème*) and Don Basilio (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*). A frequent performer with the Canadian Opera Company, Giles sang the roles of Parson/Badger in their production of *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Janáček) as well as Zuniga in *Carmen* with Manitoba Opera and The King in *The Little Prince* with Pacific Opera Victoria.

Giles begins the 2025/26 season as Ed in Crow’s Theatre powerful production of *Octet*, exploring the perils of internet addiction. Giles is Leporello in *Don Giovanni* with Hamilton Philharmonic and Gandalf with Cantabile Choirs of Kingston in their production of Dean Burry’s *The Hobbit*.

Future performances include *Messiah* with Grand Philharmonic Choir and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and *Don Alfonso* in Mozart’s *Così fan tutte* in concert with Windsor Symphony Orchestra.

