

# KRISTEN MARIE GILLIS

*Soprano*

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## OPERATIC ROLES

Nella	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	Finger Lakes Opera	2024
Florine (cv)	<i>Two Corners</i>   Boykin & Lee	Finger Lakes Opera	2024
Rusalka (cv)	<i>Rusalka</i>	Opera Ithaca	2023
First Wood-sprite	<i>Rusalka</i>	Opera Ithaca	2023
Turnspit	<i>Rusalka</i>	Opera Ithaca	2023
Mutter	<i>Hänsel und Gretel</i>	Temple Opera Theater	2023
Eliza	<i>Dark Sisters</i>   Muhly	Temple Opera Theater	2022
Countess Rosina Almaviva	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Temple Opera Theater	2022
Madame Lidoine ( <i>studied</i> )	<i>Dialogues des Carmélites</i>	Texas Tech Opera Theatre	2020
Second Lady	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Texas Tech Opera Theatre	2020
Rosalinda ( <i>Covid-19 cancellation</i> )	<i>Die Fledermaus</i>	Varna International	2020
Countess Rosina Almaviva	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	ACU Opera Theatre	2019
Lauretta	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	Red River Lyric Opera	2018
Suor Angelica	<i>Suor Angelica</i>	ACU Opera Theater	2017

## CONCERT

Featured Soloist	<i>Out Loud at the M.A.G.</i>	Fingers Lakes Opera	2024
Featured Soloist	<i>A Singer's Singer</i>	Opera Ithaca	2023
Recitalist	<i>Lunch and a Song</i>	Central City Opera	2023
Featured Soloist	Violetta Valéry, <i>La traviata</i>   Verdi	Temple University Symphony Orchestra	2023
Soprano I Soloist	<i>Missa in C Minor</i>   Mozart	ACU A Cappella Chorus	2023
Soprano Soloist	<i>Messiah</i>   Händel	Amarillo Opera	2019
Soprano Soloist	<i>Messiah</i>   Händel	The Lubbock Chorale	2019
Soprano Soloist	<i>Requiem</i>   Fauré	ACU A Cappella Chorus	2018
Soprano Soloist	<i>Missa Sancti Nicolai</i>   Hadyn	ACU University Chorale	2017

## PARTIAL ROLES & SCENES

Madeline	<i>Face on the Barroom Floor</i>   Mollicone	Central City Opera	2023
Fiordiligi	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Central City Opera	2023
Countess Rosina Almaviva	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Central City Opera	2023
Norma	<i>Norma</i>	Temple Opera Theater	2023
Donna Anna	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Temple Opera Theater	2023
Cunegonde	<i>Candide</i>	Castleton Festival	2023
Arabella	<i>Arabella</i>	Temple Opera Theater	2022
Carolina	<i>Il matrimonio segreto</i>	Temple Opera Theater	2022
Susannah Polk	<i>Susannah</i>	Temple Opera Theater	2021
Marschallin	<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>	Texas Tech Opera Theatre	2020
Donna Anna	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Taos Opera Institute	2017

## AWARDS

Semi-Finalist	SAS Performing Arts Company Voice Competition	2023
Semi-Finalist	Camille Coloratura Awards   <i>Artist Division</i>	2023
Winner	Gigli International Opera Scholarship Competition	2023
Winner	Career Bridges Grant Awards   <i>Schuyler Foundation</i>	2023
Award Recipient	Temple University Symphony Orchestra Student Soloist Award	2023
Finalist	Opera Ithaca Edward M. Murray International Competition of Voice	2023
Semi-Finalist	Giulio Gari Vocal Competition	2023
Semi-Finalist	Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition	2023
Semi-Finalist	Dallas Opera Guild Biennial Lonestar Vocal Competition	2023
Winner	Boyer College of Music and Dance Student Soloist Competition	2022
Third Prize Winner	Mario Lanza Institute Scholarship Auditions	2022
Award Recipient	John T. Douglas Fund for Young Artists	2022
Third Prize Winner	NATS Eastern Region   <i>CL 9 Advanced Classical Treble Voice</i>	2022
Regional Finalist	Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition   <i>Midwest Region</i>	2021
Semi-Finalist	Premiere Opera Foundation + NYIOP	2021
Semi-Finalist	SAS Performing Arts Company Voice Competition	2021

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

Young Artist	Finger Lakes Opera	2024
Young Artist	Opera Ithaca   <i>Apprentice Artist Program</i>	2023
Studio Artist	Central City Opera   <i>Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Artists</i>	2023
Emerging Artist	Castleton Festival   <i>Vocal Immersion Program</i>	2023
Young Artist	Red River Lyric Opera	2018
Young Artist	Taos Opera Institute	2017
M.M. in Voice Performance	Temple University   <i>Boyer College of Music and Dance</i>	2021-2023
B.M. in Vocal Performance	Abilene Christian University	2015-2019

**Skills:** Basic stage combat training (sword/unarmed technique); beginner dance training (historical, modern)

**Voice:** Kathryn Leemhuis (current), Alisa Jordheim, Julie Pruett

**Coaches:** Elise Auerbach, Michelle DeYoung, Susan Graham, Paul Groves, Christopher Turbessi

**Conductors:** John Baril, Keith Chambers, Brandon Eldredge, Danielle Jagelski, Daniel Kleinknecht, Michael Sakir, Adam Turner

**Directors:** Ken Cazan, Dan Wallace Miller, Brandon McShaffrey, Ben Robinson, Ashraf Sewailam

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Kristen Marie Gillis is a Black Mexican-American soprano is a blossoming young artist - sharing her work on both opera and concert stages.

Opening her 23/24 season, Kristen made her professional debut with **Central City Opera** as a Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Studio Artist. She performed as Madeline (Mollicone's *Face on the Barrom Floor*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), and Countess (*Le nozze di Figaro*) in multiple "Short Works" programs, as well as a "Lunch & a Song" recital. In early October, she will compete in the prestigious Gerda Lissner Foundation Lieder/Art Song Competition, compete as a Semi-Finalist in Artist Division of the Camille Coloratura Awards, the SAS Performing Arts Company Voice Competition, and perform as a Winner of the Gigli International Opera Scholarship Competition. Later that month, she will join **Opera Ithaca's** 2023 Festival as a Young Artist. Kristen is looking forward to making her role debut as the First Wood-sprite, Turnspit, and covering the titular role of Dvorak's *Rusalka*. This Spring, Ms. Gillis will compete in the Opera Division of the Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition and the Voice Division of the 39th Annual Young Texas Artists Music Competition.

In past seasons, her previous credits include the leading role of Eliza (Muhly's *Dark Sisters*), Mutter (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Countess Rosina Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), and Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*). She has also been featured in scenes as Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Cunegonde (*Candide*), Carolina (*Il matrimonio segreto*), Marschallin (*Der Rosenkavalier*), and the title role of Bellini's *Norma*, Floyd's *Susannah*, and Strauss' *Arabella*. In concert, Ms. Gillis has been the guest Soprano I soloist of Mozart's *Mass in C minor*, as well as the Soprano soloist of Händel's *Messiah* with **Amarillo Opera** and **The Lubbock Choral**, Fauré's *Requiem*, and Hadyn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai*, both with the **Abilene Christian University Choirs**.

As an avid competitor, Ms. Gillis has placed and advanced in many competitions throughout the seasons. Most recently, she was a Winner of the Career Bridges Grant Awards, Third Prize Winner of the Mario Lanza Scholarship Competition, and Winner of the Boyer College Student Soloist Competition. She was also a Midwest Regional Finalist of the 2021 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, Award Recipient of the Boyer College John T. Douglas Award, First Prize Winner of the Charleston International Music Competition, Second Prize Winner of the Rocky Mountain Music Competition, and Third Prize Winner of the NATS Student Auditions, in both the Texoma and Eastern regions.

Kristen has had the opportunity to work with soprano Angel Blue in her 2020 Opera Training Studio, as well as mezzo-soprano Susan Graham in her studio at Texas Tech University. She has also been featured in masterclasses with teachers such as Gregory Lamar, Ana Maria Martínez, Christine Georke, and Melissa Wegner. Ms. Gillis is a proud of alumna of the Vocal Immersion Program of the Castleton Festival, Red River Lyric Opera, and Taos Opera Institute.

Ms. Gillis is a Texas native and currently resides in Philadelphia, PA. She is a proud first generation college graduate, holding degrees from Temple University and Abilene Christian University.



