

Jocelyn Claire Thomas

Soprano

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Praised for her “staggeringly brilliant...ethereal soprano” (The Source) **Jocelyn Claire Thomas** has engaged audiences with her haunting sound, musical intelligence, and unusual versatility. She has sung more than 40 operatic roles with Portland Opera, Tacoma Opera, Eugene Opera, Inland Northwest Opera, Opera Theater Oregon, OperaBend, Brava Opera Theater, Cascadia Chamber Opera, and others.

Recent solo highlights include “Eliza” in *Dark Sisters* with Eugene Opera, Soprano Soloist in Dvorak’s *Stabat Mater* with Festival Chorale Oregon, “Amor” in *Paride ed Elena* with Puget Sound Concert Opera, and Soprano Soloist in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Willamette Master Chorus. Ms. Thomas was a featured soloist in Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* with Portland’s Bach Cantata Choir, about which Oregon ArtsWatch wrote “Ms. Thomas shone brightly as the angel.” Other highlights include Barber’s *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Salem Philharmonia Orchestra, Mozart’s *Exsultate Jubilate* with the Central Oregon Symphony, “Susanna” in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Tacoma Opera, and Soprano Soloist in *Messiah* with Harmonia Seattle.

Ms. Thomas is a passionate advocate for new music, and has recently participated in the creation and premiere of many new works including *Cantata Caffeinata* by John Muehleisen, *Free Men* and *The Dream* by Ashley Hastings, *The Voice of One* by Scot Crandal and Robert Bryant, *Tango of the White Gardenia* by Ethan Ganz-Morse, *Two Yosemite*s by Justin Ralls, and *Via Lactea* by Ellen Waterston & Rebecca Oswald, about which Northwest Reverb remarked "Soprano Jocelyn Claire Thomas as Peggy was noteworthy; she has a fine, bright soprano and lent the right verve and spunkiness to a character that could have been annoying and trite in the wrong hands." Jocelyn also serves as Troupe Soprano for Cult of Orpheus, Portland’s only all-original art-song and opera troupe, founded by composer Christopher Corbell. Recordings with Cult of Orpheus include *Viva’s Holiday*, a new opera in which Jocelyn sings the title role, and also *Sacred Works I: The Emerald Tablet*, which Willamette Weekly called “fervently beautiful.”

Originally from Columbia, MO, Jocelyn holds a B.M. from the Oberlin Conservatory, and both a M.M. and Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory. She also serves as Artistic Director for Ping & Woof Opera, which is dedicated to bringing intimate and accessible opera experiences to the PNW, and making opera available to everyone through donation based admission. Currently based in Portland, OR, Jocelyn maintains a private studio in voice, piano, and flute.

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