



## **LA Opera Connects – May 17 LA County Fair Performance - Artist Bios**

### **ERIN ALFORD**

First Prize Winner of the 2024 Pasadena Vocal Competition, “statuesque, spunky... powerful” mezzo-soprano Erin Alford is quickly making a name for herself on the operatic, concert and recital stage (South Florida Classical Review). In the 2024-25 season, Erin will sing Effie and cover Augusta in *The Ballad of Baby Doe* with The Opera Buffs, portray Agata in *Don Bucefalo* with Pacific Opera Project, return to Pensacola Opera to make her role debut as Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, give recital *Songs of Fantasy and Wonder* in February at the Bowers Museum, and cover Yvonne/Betty in *Sunday in the Park with George* with The Glimmerglass Festival. Other notable roles performed include Fidalma in *El matrimonio secreto*, Dorabella in Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, the title role in Massenet’s *Chérubin*, Sister Helen Prejean in *Dead Man Walking*, Mercédès in *Carmen*, La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi*, and Cousin Hebe in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. [www.erinalford.com](http://www.erinalford.com)

### **CEDRIC BERRY**

CEDRIC BERRY wields “a bass-baritone of considerable power and agility” (The Chicago Tribune), projecting “machismo and a voice of fabulous mettle to the theatre’s last row....tossing off difficult passagework and deploying dazzling thunderbolts of sound at the top of the range” (Voix des Arts). Roles include the title role in Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi*, Mephistopheles in Gounod’s *Faust*, Lepporello in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, Collatinus and Junius in Britten’s *The Rape of Lucretia* and Shaunard in Puccini’s *La bohème*. Companies include Los Angeles Opera, The Industry Opera, Long Beach Opera, Savonlinna Opera Festival of Finland, Banlieurs Bleues Festival of France and the Ravinia Music Festival, to name a few. He has appeared with Pacific Symphony, Arizona Symphony, Santa Fe Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, Stockton Symphony, Pasadena Pops Orchestra, California Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Telemann Chamber Orchestra of Japan. He also won first place in the Metropolitan Opera Western Region Competition. Upcoming engagements include the role of Zoderick in a Canadian production of Scott Joplin’s *Treemonisha*. Performances will be at the Harris Theatre in Chicago, IL in May. For information visit [www.cedricberry.com](http://www.cedricberry.com).

### **Dr Vivian I-Miao Liu**

Dr Vivian I-Miao Liu is a versatile collaborative pianist. She has worked with the Long Beach Opera, Opera Idaho, Opera Pacific, Classical Singers Association, National Association



of Teachers of Singing, Songfest, Boys Choir of Harlem, National Children's Chorus, Calico Winds, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Opera Connects, Pacific Symphony, Riverside Philharmonic, Southwest Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference, International Double Reed Society Conference, Pokorny Low Brass Seminar, and National YoungArts Foundation. She has served as a staff pianist at University of Redlands, Chapman University, and Azusa Pacific University.

In concerts, she has collaborated with musicians from Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pacific Symphony, Porto Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Shanghai Philharmonic, and Vienna Philharmonic, as well as singers from Baltimore Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Los Angeles Opera, Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, and Washington Opera. She has performed internationally in Taiwan, Russia, Austria and the U.S.

She earned MM and DMA in keyboard collaborative arts from the University of Southern California under Dr Alan Smith and Pro Kevin Fitz Gerald. She earned MM in piano from Manhattan School of Music. She earned BFA in piano from Taipei National University of the Arts in Taiwan.