



Songs & Spirituals from the American Experience
Cheryse McLeod Lewis, Mezzo-Soprano

LONG BIO

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Cheryse McLeod Lewis, Mezzo-Soprano

Cheryse McLeod Lewis is an award-winning performing artist who has created a uniquely diverse performance career. Trained as a classical singer, Ms. Lewis is an accomplished performer in opera, Broadway, concert, and recital. Most recently during the 2013-2014 season, she performed on the The Gershwin's Porgy and Bess 1st National Broadway Tour as U/S Bess. Ms. Lewis appeared in the title role (Bess) numerous times to critical acclaim. During the 2014-2015 season, Ms. Lewis' upcoming concert engagements include appearances with Boise Philharmonic, Arkansas State University (Beebe), Chipola College, Albany State University, Southern Adventist University, and Taylor University.

For her opera performances, Cheryse McLeod Lewis has been praised for possessing "stunning vocal power" (Asheville Citizen-Times) and a "rich lyric mezzo sound" (Opera News Online). Her principal roles include the title role in *Carmen* (Capital Opera Raleigh; Asheville Lyric Opera); Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Asheville Lyric Opera, Mansfield Symphony, Central Georgia Opera Guild); Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* (Connecticut Opera; Greensboro Opera); The Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Opera Carolina; Connecticut Opera); Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* (Vashon Opera; Greensboro Opera); Flora in *La Traviata* (Piedmont Opera); the Page in *Salome* (The Opera Company of NC; Connecticut Opera); and Papagena in *The Magic Flute* (Houston Ebony Opera).

Ms. Lewis also appears in concert and recital to rave reviews and has performed as a soloist with Orchestra Seattle, Gettysburg Festival, Eastern Music Festival, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Greensboro Symphony, New Britain (CT) Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, Mansfield Symphony, Piccolo Spoleto Festival, MOJA Festival, and Greensboro Oratorio Society.

As an educator, Ms. Lewis is passionate about helping young singers discover their vocal potential and have successful music careers. She has served on the voice faculties of Seminole State College (Sanford, FL), Valencia College (Orlando, FL), and Winston-Salem State University (Winston-Salem, NC). Ms. Lewis has also been a visiting guest artist and given vocal masterclasses and music business workshops for students at Trevecca Nazarene University, Fayetteville State University, Mount Olive College, NC A&T State University, Concord University, Johnson C. Smith University, Seminole State College of Florida, and Valencia College.

A proud native of Greensboro, NC, Ms. Lewis is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University (BFA in Voice Performance), The University of NC at Greensboro (MM in Voice Performance), and The AJ Fletcher Opera Institute (Professional Artist Certificate in Opera). Ms. Lewis is currently based in Seattle, WA and released her debut solo CD, *Spirituals*, in 2012. Learn more at www.CheryseMusic.com.

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