



JESSICA USHERWOOD

Soprano

Soprano Jessica Usherwood is an active performer and soloist. She performed in concert with Richard Stillwell and Samuel Ramey and sang leading roles in operas such as John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea*, Prokofiev's *The Love for Three Oranges*, and Mozart's *The Impresario*. Jessica appeared with Chicago Opera Theater for several seasons presenting operas including Britten's *Death in Venice*, Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, and John Adam's *Nixon in China*. As a recitalist, Ms. Usherwood has performed works including Messiaen's *Chants de terre et de ciel*, William Bolcom's *Let Evening Come*, André Previn's *Honey and Rue*, and Eric Whitacre's *Five Hebrew Love Songs*. She is the soprano of the International Chamber Artists (ICA) of Chicago. With ICA she has presented works such as Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Britten's *Les Illuminations*, Ginastera's *Cantos Del Tucumán*, Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, and Morton Feldman's *Journey To The End Of Night*. This season with ICA, Ms. Usherwood will premiere a new work entitled *Bars & Barns* for soprano and chamber ensemble, and perform Arnold Cooke's *Nocturnes* on Chicago's "Live from WFMT" recital series. She recently participated in a program for soprano, horn, and piano at Michigan's White Lake Chamber Music Festival. As a strong advocate for performing arts education and engagement, Ms. Usherwood has participated in many community initiatives, some of which are Tunaweza Kimuziki (a Kenyan-US cultural exchange program), Roundabout Opera for Kids (Bloomington, IN), Peoples School of Music (Chicago), Chicago Opera Theater's "Opera for All" program, and the International Chamber Artists outreach endeavors. Her research interests include nonprofit management, professional development resources for young artists, and innovative programming for arts organizations. Jessica Usherwood earned a professional diploma in opera and master of music degree from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She will complete her Doctor of Music degree in Voice Performance and Literature from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in the spring of 2015. Ms. Usherwood's doctoral project will explore the necessary skills and business acumen that are critical for young artists to achieve their performance goals in the professional world—most importantly music entrepreneurship.