



# VALÉRIE BÉLANGER

## SOPRANO

### BIOGRAPHY

2016 IRCPA SONDRÁ RADVANOVSKY ENCOUNTER – LOUIS QUILICO SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**As Silvia in *L'isola disabitata* with Voicebox: Opera in Concert –**

*“Singing the role of Silvia, fellow Québécoise, soprano Valérie Bélanger, all but stole the show, her bouncy, high-spirited characterization as vibrant as her voice, adolescence personified, bright, adventurous, a shade unpredictable. Reaching to the very bottom of her profoundly robust lower register, Bélanger delivered one of the hits of the afternoon, an extraordinarily flavoursome ‘Come il vapor s’ascende’ (‘Like steam rising’), a lusty salute to churning teenage passion.”*

*Ian Ritchie, Opera Going Toronto*

French-Canadian soprano Valérie Bélanger is extremely active on the Montreal operatic and concert scenes. She recently performed **Atalanta** in Opera da Camera’s daring production of Händel’s *Xerxès*. In previous seasons with this young company, Valerie interpreted **Noémie** in Massenet’s *Cendrillon* and made her debut as **Susanna** in their inaugural production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

As **Susanna**, Lev Bratishenko (Montreal Gazette) wrote that “Bélanger was magical as Susanna, a natural actress with a creamy voice and an easy, apparent joy...” while Opera Canada noted, “the show’s star was Valérie Bélanger as Susanna... a natural whose beautiful soprano was well projected and her dramatic verve exceptional.” She also stepped in at the last minute to perform the role with Highlands Opera Studio in their 2015 season.

Comfortable with both contemporary and traditional repertoire, Ms. Bélanger starred as **Syliva** in Haydn’s *L’isola disabitata* with both Thirteen Strings in Ottawa, and with Toronto’s Voicebox:Opera in Concert. She also performed with Opéra-Théâtre de Rimouski singing in the Canadian première of Adolphe Adam’s *Le Postillon de Longjumeau* (**Madeleine**), as well as in Gluck’s *Orphée et Eurydice* (**L’Amour**). With Opéra de Québec, she was **Gertrude** in the Quebec City Opera Festival’s production of André Gagnon’s *Nelligan*, and she toured across the country with Jeunesses Musicales du Canada as **Adina** in *L’elisir d’amore*.

Past engagements include the roles of **Gretel** (*Hänsel und Gretel*, Humperdinck) and **Despina** (*Così fan tutte*, Mozart) with Opera da Camera, as well as concerts with Montreal’s Serenata at St. John’s. In concert, Ms. Bélanger has been a soloist in Gilles Vigneault’s *Grand-Messe*, J.S. Bach’s *Cantatas* BWV 23, 31 and 42, Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater*, and in the oratorios *Die Schöpfung* (Haydn) and *Jephtha* (Händel). Other credits include numerous pieces for voice and lute/guitar, as well as Hindemith’s chamber cantata *Die Serenaden*, op. 35.

Valerie was selected to receive the Louis Quilico Scholarship to participate in the IRCPA sponsored "Encounter with Sondra Radvanovsky" masterclass and to perform in the Showcase Concert in Toronto.

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