

# Naomi Louisa O'Connell

## mezzo soprano

Hailed by The New York Times as “radiant,” Irish performer Naomi Louisa O’Connell made her professional stage debut in 2012 starring on London’s West End in Terrence McNally’s Tony Award-winning play *Master Class* in the role of Sharon Graham, an aspiring young opera singer opposite Tyne Daly who portrayed the legendary Maria Callas. The Times called her performance “...spectacular,” and The Independent lauded her “...thrilling rendering of an aria from Verdi’s *Macbeth*.”

In the 2015-2016 season, Ms. O’Connell makes her debut at the Welsh National Opera in two operas: as Cherubino in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*, directed by Tobias Richter, and as Serafin in the world premiere of Elena Langer’s *Figaro Gets A Divorce*, directed by David Pountney. She also participated in a workshop for *The Rivals: A Musical* at Pearl Studios and premiered her all-German cabaret *FRAU* at the Neue Galerie of New York City. In the 2014-2015 season, she made her German debut at Oper Frankfurt in the title role of a new production of Monteverdi’s *L’incoronazione di Poppea*. She also debuted at Atlanta Opera as Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* and participated in the workshop for Jake Heggie’s new opera *Great Scott* as Arden Scott in New York City.

In the 2013 – 2014 season, Ms. O’Connell returned to Garsington Opera for Offenbach’s *Vert-Vert* in the role of man-eating opera diva La Corilla, whose “coloratura tours-de-force simply blew the lid of this performance.” In the USA, she debuted in Stephen Wadsworth’s new adaptation of the Beaumarchais *Figaro Plays* in the role of Rosine to great critical acclaim. Highlights of her 2012-13 operatic season included: Despina in the MET+Juilliard production of Mozart’s *Così fan tutte* in fall 2012, under the baton of Alan Gilbert and directed by Stephen Wadsworth; and in spring 2013, she appeared in New York City Opera’s new production of Offenbach’s *La Périchole*, directed by Christopher Alden.

A gifted musician and natural performer, Ms. O’Connell deftly balances her love of opera with that of art song, musical theater and popular song with repertoire ranging from Schumann, Strauss and Ravel to Bernstein, Gershwin and Randy Newman. Recital appearances include her Carnegie Hall debut at Weill Recital Hall presented by Concert Artists Guild, entitled “Witches, Bitches & Women in Britches,” where the New York Times hailed her as “a natural in the recital format, winning over the audience with her rich, silvery voice and charming stage presence.” Ms. O’Connell made her recital debut with pianist Brent Funderburk at New York City’s Alice Tully Hall in the Juilliard Vocal Arts Honors Recital in 2011. The duo formed a strong collaboration and have continued to perform together across the USA; notable recital venues include New York’s Alice Tully Hall, Neue Galerie, Merkin Concert Hall, Rockefeller University and the American Irish Historical Society, as well as the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Purdue University Convocations and the Artist Series of Tallahassee.

In the USA, Ms. O’Connell has performed with the Marlboro Music Festival, Steans Musical Institute at Ravinia, the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, MUSE/IQUE in Los Angeles, New York’s Five Boroughs Music Festival, Fabbri Chamber Concerts, The Song Continues

and Ensemble for the Romantic Century, the Juilliard ChamberFest and FOCUS! Festivals and the New York Festival of Song.

Notable past awards include the 2012 Leonard Ingrams Award from Garsington Opera, First Prize in the 2011 Concert Artists Guild and Caruso/Altamura International Voice Competitions, the Novick Career Advancement Grant and Makiko Narumi Award for Outstanding Mezzo-soprano from The Juilliard School, and First Prize in Operetta at the 2008 International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition.

Born to Irish/German parents in County Clare, Ireland, Ms. O'Connell began her studies with Archie Simpson and is an alumna of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, where she studied with voice teacher Mary Brennan. She holds a Master of Music degree and an Artist Diploma in Opera Studies from The Juilliard School where she studied with voice teachers Dr. Robert White and Marlena Malas and acting teacher Stephen Wadsworth. The Irish Arts Council generously supported her studies at The Juilliard School. Her recordings have been broadcasted on WQXR, BBC Three, Bayerischer Rundfunk, RTÉ Television, RTÉ Radio One and Lyric FM. Ms. O'Connell is currently based in New York City.