

University of North Texas College of Music

Guest Artist Masterclass | Tuesday, January 16, 2023 | 3:00 pm | Voertman Hall

Janet Williams Voice Masterclass



Four hundred tenth program of the 2023–2024 season Photography and videography are prohibited about our guest artist

Janet Williams is an American soprano who has won international critical acclaim for performances at the Metropolitan Opera, Berlin Staatsoper, Paris Opera, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Opera de Lyon, Nice Opera, Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Opera Geneva, Frankfurt Opera, Cologne Opera, Leipzia Opera, San Francisco Opera, Washinaton Opera, Dallas Opera, and Michigan Opera Theatre as well as in concerts throughout Europe, North America, Canada, Israel, and Japan with conductors including Vladimir Ashkenazy, Daniel Barenboim, Myung-whun Chung, Philippe Herreweghe, René Jacobs, Marek Janowski, Neeme Järvi, Raymond Leppard, Fabio Luisi, Sir Neville Marriner, Nicholas McGegan, Zubin Mehta, Kent Nagano, John Nelson, Donald Runnicles, Gerard Schwarz and Michael Tilson Thomas. Williams has appeared with the Israel Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall, Chicago Symphony, Mostly Mozart Festival in New York and Tokyo, New World Symphony, Detroit Symphony, New York, Los Angeles and Santa Fe chamber orchestras, as well as with orchestras throughout Europe in repertoire ranging from Bach and Mozart to contemporary works of living composers. Her interpretations as a recitalist have been critically acclaimed in New York, San Francisco, Washington, D.C. and Detroit as well as Berlin, Paris, Tokyo, and Iceland. Williams holds bachelor degrees in both music education and vocal performance from Michigan State University and a master's in vocal performance from Indiana University, where she was a student and assistant instructor under Professor Camilla Williams, Other instructors and mentors have included world-renowned singers Régine Crespin, Kammersängerin Helen Donath, Kammersängerin Reri Grist and noted international vocal pedagogue David Jones. Williams' professional career began with the San Francisco Opera Center as a member of the Merola Program. She was awarded an Adler Fellowship and subsequently appeared with the company as a guest artist singing leading roles in the operas of Mozart, Puccini, Handel and Rossini. She was a member of the Berlin Staatsoper ensemble, making a critically acclaimed debut as Cleopatra in Carl Heinrich Graun's Cleopatra e Cesare. Other roles in her repertoire include Pamina in Die Zauberflöte, Konstanze and Blondchen in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Susanna in The Marriage of Figaro, Sophie in Der Rosenkavalier, Adina in L'elisir d'amore, Ännchen in Der Freischütz, Adele in Die Fledermaus, Rosina in II barbiere di Siviglia, Musetta in La bohème, Gilda in Rigoletto, Oscar in Un ballo in maschera, Nannetta in Falstaff, the Junafrau in Schoenbera's Moses und Aron, and Manon in Henze's Boulevard Solitude. She is especially acclaimed for leading roles in the baroque operas of Handel, Telemann, Gassmann and Stradella at the Handel Festival in Halle, the Festwochen der Alten Musik in Innsbruck, Austria; the Spoleto Festival Italy, the Schwetzingen Festival, the Wexford Festival in Ireland and the styriarte festival in Graz, Janet Williams has worked as guest professor of the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin and as interim professor of voice at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Rostock. She is currently an honorary professor at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler and teaches at the Lotte Lehmann Academy in Perlebera. Germany. She has presented masterclasses, seminars and workshops across the United States, as well as in London, Paris, Reykjavik and Berlin. Her book, Nail Your Next Audition: The Ultimate 30-Day Guide for Singers, has attracted a global following of young singers and voice professionals.