



## EMILY LANGFORD JOHNSON

### MEZZO-SOPRANO

American mezzo-soprano **Emily Langford Johnson** has been hailed as “extremely stage savvy and sporting a fine chestnut-hued mezzo” by Opera News. This season, Emily sings Cortese’s *American Triptych* with the Greeley Philharmonic, *Messiah* at Marrietta College, and covers the role of Dinah in New York City Opera’s *A Quiet Place*. In the 2009-2010 season she returned to New York City Opera to cover the role of Vashti in their production of *Esther*. Other recent engagements include a return to the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra in Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde* and a solo appearance with the Philadelphia Ballet in *Messiah* as well as her debut with Opera Roanoke as Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*. Ms. Johnson appeared in the title role of Gotham Chamber Opera’s critically acclaimed, avant-garde work *Ariadne Unhinged* featuring works by Haydn, Monteverdi and Schoenberg’s *Pierrot Lunaire*. Engagements for 2008-2009 included her role debut as Carmen with both Opera Santa Barbara and the Fox Valley Symphony, her return to Opera Roanoke for Meg in Verdi’s *Falstaff*, and an appearance in a concert featuring works by Bach with Opera New Jersey. In 2007-2008 Ms. Johnson joined the roster of New York City Opera with performances in the VOX: American Composer’s Showcase and later covering the role of Dorothee in *Cendrillon*. In 2006-2007 performed the Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with the Western NY Chamber Orchestra, Jo March in *Little Women* with Dell’Arte

Opera Ensemble and Marianna in Gotham Chamber Opera’s *Il Signor Bruschino* for which the New York Times called her “a sexy, Sophia Loren-like flirt”. Concerts include Mahler’s *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, Copland’s *Eight Poems of Emily Dickinson* with the Newport Symphony, New Jersey Opera Theatre’s gala concert, and a guest recital at Indiana University where she performed Rzewski’s challenging *Antigone-Legend* with collaborative pianist Kevin Class. Recently awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place at The Center for Contemporary Opera’s International Vocal Competition, Ms. Johnson premiered works by Glen Cortese, Martin Hennessy and librettist Mark Campbell at the Winner’s Recital at Weill Hall at Carnegie in 2008.

During her tenure as a resident artist with Palm Beach Opera she was seen as Zweite Dame in their production of *Die Zauberflöte* on the mainstage. In addition she performed the roles of Angelina and Tisbe in the tour of *La Cenerentola*, Amneris in the family matinee performance of *Aida* and Hansel in the family matinee performance of *Hansel and Gretel*. She was the resident mezzo in the Cincinnati Opera education ensemble and a member of the Glimmerglass Opera Young American Artist Program where she covered the role of Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* and performed and covered several roles in the production of *Death in Venice*. Concerts included the orchestral world premiere of the solo song cycle ...In Dreams, with the Western New York Chamber Orchestra and the New Year’s Eve Concert for Peace at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York where she was a soloist in the world premiere of *A Dream of Peace*.

Other operatic engagements include Maddalena in *Rigoletto* and Meg Brockie in *Brigadoon* with Utah Festival Opera, Elisabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* with the Liederkrantz Opera Theatre and Alice B. Toklas in a workshop production of the new work *Gertrude Stein Invents a Jump Early On* with Encompass New Opera Theatre. On the concert and recital platform Ms. Johnson has been seen as a soloist in Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* with Utah Festival Opera, Mozart’s *Requiem* at the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea on Palm Beach, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine’s “New Year’s Eve Concert for Peace” and “Fairy Tales and Legends: a concert of Opera arias” with The Oregon Mozart Players, as well as her New York debut recital featuring contemporary American composers and poets.

Ms. Johnson earned her BM from The Manhattan School of Music and MFA from The Actors Studio Drama School.

**EMILY LANGFORD JOHNSON**  
**MEZZO-SOPRANO**

**Opera**

Dinah (c)	<i>Trouble in Tahiti</i>	New York City Opera	2010
Vashti (c)	<i>Esther</i>	New York City Opera	2009
Carmen	<i>Carmen</i>	Fox Valley Symphony	2009
Carmen	<i>Carmen</i>	Opera Santa Barbara	2009
Meg	<i>Falstaff</i>	Opera Roanoke	2008
Ariadne	<i>Ariadne Unhinged</i>	Gotham Chamber Opera	2008
Dorothee(c)	<i>Cendrillon</i>	New York City Opera	2007
Hansel	<i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	Opera Roanoke	2007
Jo March	<i>Little Women</i>	Dell'Arte Opera Ensemble	2007
Donna Donna	PDQ Bach's <i>The Abduction of Figaro</i>	Western NY Chamber Orchestra	2007
Marianna	<i>Il Signor Bruschino</i>	Gotham Chamber Opera	2007
Mother	<i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i>	Western NY Chamber Orchestra	2006
Zweite Dame	<i>Die Zauberflote</i>	Palm Beach Opera	2006
Angelina/Tisbe	<i>La Cenerentola</i> (Outreach Tour)	Palm Beach Opera	2005
Dorabella(c)	<i>Così fan Tutte</i>	Glimmerglass Opera	2005
Nanny/Beggar /Lady in Pearls(c)	<i>Death in Venice</i>	Glimmerglass Opera	2005
Hansel	<i>Hansel and Gretel</i> (Family Matinee)	Palm Beach Opera	2004
Maddalena	<i>Rigoletto</i>	Utah Festival Opera	2004
Meg Brockie	<i>Brigadoon</i>	Utah Festival Opera	2004
Alice B. Toklas	<i>Gertrude Stein Invents a Jump...</i>	Encompass New Opera Theatre	2003
Elizabeth Proctor	<i>The Crucible</i>	Liederkrantz Opera Theatre	2002

**Concerts/Oratorio**

Soloist	American Triptych	Greeley Philharmonic	2011
Soloist	Messiah	Marrietta College	2010
Soloist	William Scheide Birthday Celebration	Opera New Jersey	2009
Soloist	Messiah	Philadelphia Ballet	2008
Soloist	Contemporary Opera and Art Song	Weill Recital Hall	2008
Mahler	Das Lied von der Erde	Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra	2008
Various Roles	VOX American Composers Showcase	New York City Opera Orchestra	2007
Rzewski	Antigone-Legend	Indiana University Guest Artist Recital	2007
Copland	Eight Poems of Emily Dickinson	Newport Symphony Orchestra	2006
Mahler	Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen	Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, CO	2006
Solo Song Cycle	...in Dreams (World Premiere)	Western NY Chamber Orchestra	2005
Soloist	A Dream of Peace (World Premiere)	St. John the Divine, NY Chamber Orch.	2004
Mendelssohn	Elijah	Utah Festival Opera	2004
Alto Soloist	Symphony #9	St. John the Divine, NY Chamber Orch.	2002

**Awards**

Center for Contemporary Opera International Competition – First Place Winner 2006  
Palm Beach Opera Competition – Fourth Place Winner 2005  
Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions – Regional Finalist 2005  
Joyce Dutka Arts Foundation Award- Second Place Winner 2004  
Liederkrantz Foundation Award - Winner 2003

**Young Artist Training**

Palm Beach Opera Resident Artist Program 2005-2006  
Cincinnati Opera Resident Ensemble Tour 2005  
Glimmerglass Opera Young American Artist Spring Tour 2003  
Glimmerglass Opera Young American Artist Program 2005  
Utah Festival Opera Resident Artist Program 2004

**Education**

Master of Fine Arts in Drama - Actors Studio Drama School, NYC – 2001  
Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance - Manhattan School of Music – 1998

**EMILY LANGFORD JOHNSON**  
**Mezzo-soprano**

**Critical Acclaim**

**Fox Valley Symphony - Carmen**

“...the stars of the evening were Johnson and Glassman as Carmen and Don Jose. Both singers seem to grow in musical stature as the evening progressed. Johnson's first aria, the famous Habanera, served as a "warm-up" as to what was to come. I found her singing of the Sequidilla closing act one to be superb. In addition, she must be praised for her acting skills. Johnson proved to have mastery of the full range of her voice. Her exquisite top is of equal quality to her bold lower range, so needed for this demanding role. Finally, her singing in the final scene was strong, emotional and performed with absolute clarity.”

-Post-Crescent, 2009



**Opera Santa Barbara - Carmen**

“Emily Langford Johnson sang the title role as if she were born for it.”

“No Carmen would be complete, however, without a truly compelling mezzo-soprano in the lead, and Johnson more than fulfilled that requirement. Her castanet dance was thrilling and sexy, and her mood swings were convincing and emphatic.”

-Santa Barbara Independent, 2009

“Emily Langford Johnson is as languid as a sated cat and as vicious as a wildly hungry one. Either way, she fleshes out the role with a range of emotions and growing self-awareness that makes her compelling to watch. She toys with men, even when the game is just to allay boredom. Her Carmen is about raw sexual power lit and stoked by an adventurous nature.”

“Langford Johnson’s triumph as Carmen is in the depth of her acting skills, though she also brings an effective mezzo-soprano voice to the task.”

-Ventura County Star, 2009

**Gotham Chamber Opera – Ariadne Unhinged**

“...Johnson was a committed musically secure Ariadne. She gave herself fully to the concept and direction, gesturing in sync with the dancers, gliding gracefully through the reflective moving panels of the coolly elegant set, and shifting with little apparent effort from one musical style to the next...It was a tall order, but Johnson gamely tackled every demand and acquitted herself beautifully.”

-Opera News, 2008

“Johnson outdid herself in what amounted to an Ultimate Themed Recital...Artfully veering between the off-kilter expressionism of the Schoenberg and the relative clarity of the Monteverdi and the Haydn, Johnson registered a wide range of mental states in a memorable portrayal of a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown.”

-Blog About Town, NYC 2008



**Philadelphia Ballet – *The Messiah***

“...mezzo Emily Langford Johnson notably imparted the gravitas of the biblical story.”  
-The Philadelphia Inquirer, 2008

**Gotham Chamber Opera – *Il Signor Bruschino***

“...Marianna (the lusciously attractive Emily Langford Johnson, extremely stage savvy and sporting a fine chestnut-hued mezzo for which one wished Rossini had provided more music).”  
-Opera News, 2007

“As the maid Marianna, Emily Langford Johnson was a sexy, Sophia Loren-like flirt...”  
-New York Times, 2007

“Mezzo-soprano Emily Langford Johnson used her rich and thick voice to portray the flirtly maid Marianna.”  
-Columbia Daily Spectator, 2007

Emily Langford Johnson – Critical Acclaim Continued



**Palm Beach Opera – *Die Zauberflöte***

"The Three Ladies were comically and energetically sung and acted by mezzo sopranos Marianne Cope, Emily Langford Johnson and Hanan Tarabay. Their lustful lurking about the hero drew laughs."

-Palm Beach Daily News, 2006

"Marianne Cope, Emily Langford Johnson and Hanan Tarabay an unusually well sung and spunky trio of Ladies."

-Sun-Sentinel, 2006

"Two tricky vocal trios scored big hits. The Queen's three Ladies sang, acted and looked great."

-Palm Beach Post, 2006

**Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra - *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen***

"Emily Johnson lent gentle yet powerful vocals to compliment Mahler's mastery."

-The Mirror, 2006

**Palm Beach Opera Competition**

"Fourth prize advanced mezzo-soprano Emily Langford Johnson did a stirring rendition of Parto, parto from La Clemenza di Tito by Mozart. She has a well-placed medium-sized voice with fine agility."

-Palm Beach Daily News, 2005

\*Il Signor Bruschino photo credit – Richard Termine