



KYAUNNEE RICHARDSON

SOPRANO

*“Kyaunnee Richardson is a sparkling
Frasquita.”*

~ Opera News [*Carmen*, Opera Orlando, 2021]

CONTACTS

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*“... A lot rests on the shoulders of Kyaunnee
Richardson, who plays Calpurnia, and she succeeds
marvelously in capturing childlike inquisitiveness
and determination without overplaying...”*

~ Matt Palm, Orlando Sentinel [*The Secret River*, Opera
Orlando, 2021]

ABOUT

Kyaunnee Richardson, a soprano from South Florida, made her professional debut in 2016 as Papagena in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with **Festival of the Arts Boca**. Most recently, she starred as Calpurnia in the world premiere of Florida author Marjory Kinan Rawlings' children's story *The Secret River* with **Opera Orlando**.

Engagements for the 2023-24 season: Kyaunnee returns with **Opera in Williamsburg** singing the role of Adele in Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*. Next, she'll be featured on a *Broadway Concert* with the **New Pres Concert Series**. In December, Kyaunnee returns as a Guest Soloist with the **Symphony of the Americas** in their *Holiday with the Symphony Concert* and as the Soprano Soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the **New Pres Concert Series**. Also, she'll be guest artist with the Candlelight Concert Miami for their Holiday Special Concert. And finishing off the year, Kyaunnee will be making her debut with the **Alabama Symphony Orchestra** in their *New Year's Eve Concert*. In 2024, Kyaunnee returns to **Opera Orlando** as a Soprano Soloist in their *Andrew Lloyd Webber Concert*.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Richardson performed virtually, including **Opera Fusion's** #SongStrong and Music to Eat Chocolate By e-concerts, with **Hued Songs** in Make Music Miami, and in **Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's International Online Cadenza Competition**.

Shortly before performing arts venues were forced to shutter, she achieved a career goal in performing on main stage at the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts**, as Clara in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* with the **South Florida Symphony**. Other highlights from the last several seasons include singing Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* with the Savannah VOICE Festival, Monica in *The Medium*, Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with Opera in Williamsburg, two world premieres of *Sister 2* in Eddin's *Why I Live at the PO* and Calpurnia in Sung's *The Secret River*, Juliette/Maria in Gulfshore Shore Opera's Gala Concert, Frasquita in Bizet's *Carmen*, Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Adele in Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Alice Allegretto and Dr. Marigold in Adolph and Schlesinger's *The Amazing Adventures of Alvin Allegretto* with **Orchestra Miami**, Nella in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* and Monica in Menotti's *The Medium* with **Opera Fusion**, Pamina in *The Magic Flute* with **Orchestra Miami**, Esther in the concert premiere of Ginsberg's *Esther, Sweet Esther* at the **National Press Club in Washington D.C.**; the roles of Najade in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Lisette in Puccini's *La rondine*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Despina in *Così fan tutte* and Adele in *Die Fledermaus* with **Opera Fusion's Emerging Artist Project** series.



Her performances as a soloist with orchestra include Handel's *Messiah* with the **Civic Chorale of Greater Miami** and the **Alhambra Orchestra**, and Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the **Delray Orchestra**. She also has been a featured soloist with the **Brevard Symphony**, **Symphony of the Americas**, **Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra**, **South Florida Symphony Orchestra**, **Hallandale Symphonic Pops Orchestra**, **Sugar Pops Orchestra**, **Opera Fusion Orchestra**, **Coral Gables Chamber Orchestra** and **Sunrise Symphonic Pops Orchestra**.

Ms. Richardson counts among her highest honors singing for President Barack Obama and other dignitaries at the funeral of South Carolina Senator and Rev. Clementa Pinckney, who was murdered by a domestic terrorist at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. church in Charleston, S.C. Among her awards, she was awarded first place in **2023 Opera Ebony's Benjamin Matthews Vocal Competition**, the **Sherrill Mlines American Opera Award** and a semifinalists in the **30th Annual American Traditions Vocal Competition**, placed third in both the **New York Lyric Opera Theatre** and **Opera Ebony's Benjamin Matthews Vocal Competition** and won the **Audience Favorite Award** in the **Harlem Opera Theater Competition**. She was a finalist in **SAS Performing Arts Company Vocal Competition**, **Orchestra Noir's International Medallion Competition** and the **Michael Ballam Concorso Lirico Opera Competition**; received an **Encouragement Award** from the **Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions** and the **Stuart Smith Audience Favorite Award** from **Opera Ebony**. While completing her masters at **Florida State University**, Ms. Richardson performed the roles of Rose Maurant in Weill's *Street Scene* and Despina in *Così fan tutte*.

"And Kyaunnee Richardson is especially memorable with a beautifully playful coloratura and a winning way with a snarky aside."

~ Matt Palm, Orlando Sentinel [*Fledermaus*, Opera Orlando, 2020]

"... Calpurnia is an appealing role, thrillingly played here by soprano Kyaunnee Richardson who was on stage for virtually the entire 65-minute opera ... her girlish charm and accurate, colorful singing picked up momentum and presence as the story unfolded, and by the end of her performance felt like a real star turn..."

~ John Fleming, Musical America [*The Secret River*, Opera Orlando, 2021],

"Soprano Kyaunnee Richardson, who also lives in Miami, opened the show with the haunting lovely and familiar aria 'Summertime.'"

~Miami Times Online [*Porgy and Bess*, South Florida Symphony, 2019]

