

Cassandra Zoé Velasco

Mezzosoprano

At the young age of 24, Cassandra Zoé is considered one of the great promises of opera in México. She reached the semifinals of the World Competition "Plácido Domingo's Operalia 2012" in Beijing, China. She has represented Mexico in "International Singing Competition Monserrat Caballé" in Spain, "Competizione dell'Opera" in Bremen and Dresden, Germany and "International Singing Competition Colón Theatre" in Argentina. Recently, she has been selected to continue her operatic training in the prestigious "Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program" directed by Maestro Plácido Domingo at Los Angeles Opera in 2013.

On a national level, Cassandra has been a First Prize winner of all competitions held in Mexico like the "National Singing Competition Carlo Morelli 2011" where she won the audience award, too, the "III International Singing Competition in Sinaloa, Mexico 2011", the "Opera of Fine Arts Award", the "Maria Callas Award" for the best interpretation of belcanto and the "Domingo-Embil Zarzuela Award". In 2012, Cassandra won another first place in the "National Competition of Young Voices of Mexico in the Belcanto". Besides these recent prizes, in her young career she has received other awards such as the "Young Revelation Prize", both in the "National Competition Carlo Morelli 2008" and "I International Singing Competition in Sinaloa, Mexico 2009". She has received two scholarships from the National Fund for Culture and the Arts (FONCA) and was a fellow of SIVAM (Operatic Training Workshop).

Cassandra made her debut with the National Opera Company as Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and appeared in numerous opera productions including Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* by Mozart, Lucilla in *La Scala di Seta*, Ernestina in *L'Ocassione fa il ladro*, Cenerentola in *La Cenerentola*, Isabella in *Italiana in Algeri*, and Isolier in *Le Comte Ory*, all by Rossini; Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*, Charlotte in Massenet's *Werther* and Lola in Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

She made her international debut with the Charlemagne Orchestra for Europe and Verdi's *Requiem* at the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, Belgium, where she came back to in early 2013 to sing Beethoven's *Mass in C*. Other presentations in 2013 included Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* with the Chamber Music Orchestra at the Palace of Fine Arts in Mexico City and the Filarmonic Orchestra of Jalisco at the Teatro Degollado, Isabella in Rossini's *Italiana in Algeri* with the civil society ProOpera and Cenerentola in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with Tulsa Opera in Oklahoma (USA). Future interpretations include Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*, Myrta in Massenet's *Thaïs*, Third Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Meg Page in Verdi's *Falstaff* with the Los Angeles Opera in California (USA).

Cassandra has been working and taking classes with personalities like: Francisco Araiza, Enrique Patrón de Rueda, Joan Dorneman, Dujna Vejzovic, César Ulloa, Rogelio Riojas, Graciela Araya, Susan Young, Leo Kramer, Enrique Jaso Mendoza, Silvano Sabeo, Rufino Montero, André Dos Santos and James Demster, among others.

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