

Kendra Colton, soprano

American soprano **Kendra Colton** is a versatile singer who performs repertoire from Baroque opera and oratorio to contemporary music. Trained in the United States and Europe she appears regularly in solo recital, in chamber music concerts, and with symphony orchestras. She has sung with conductors Bernard Haitink, Christopher Hogwood, Sir Neville Marriner, Nicholas McGegan, Seiji Ozawa, and Helmuth Rilling and with presenters across the country including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic to name a few. Her singing has been described as “touchingly musical” in the *NY Times* and “skillful and imaginative” in the *Boston Globe*. *Opera News* wrote that Ms. Colton is a soprano who sings “with beauty, brightness and poise.”

A significant portion of the repertoire Ms. Colton performs is the sacred music of J.S. Bach. She has sung all of Bach’s major works and nearly all of the soprano arias and duets from his cantatas. She recently completed a 6-CD project to record soprano arias, duets and solo cantatas from many of the 200 sacred cantatas. In addition to her considerable Bach repertoire, she has also enjoyed performing numerous Handel oratorio works including *Admeto*, *Alexander’s Feast*, *Israel in Egypt*, *Judas Maccabaeus*, *The Messiah*, *Orlando*, *Saul*, *Solomon*, and *Susanna*. Haydn’s *Die Schöpfung* and *Die Jahreszeiten* are also favorite works as well as Mozart’s *Mass in C Minor* and *Requiem*.

Operatic engagements have included fully-staged, semi-staged and concert performances of operas including Mozart’s *Il Re Pastore* (Aminta), *Marriage of Figaro* (Cherubino), *Magic Flute* (Pamina), Handel’s *Ariodante* (Dalinda), *Tolomeo* (Seleuce), *The Triumph of Time and Truth* (Pleasure), *Acis and Galatea* (Galatea), Dominick Argento’s *Postcard from Morocco* (Lady with the Hand Mirror), and Lully’s *Thésée*. She also performed and recorded the title role in Lukas Foss’ *Griffelkin* with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project.

Ms. Colton is a proponent of new music and has presented numerous premieres. World premiere performances of works that she commissioned include *Finite Infinity* for soprano, oboe, and piano by Peter Child; *Uncertainty is Beautiful* for soprano and chamber orchestra and *The Reckless Heart* for soprano and piano both by Andy Vores. She also recorded and presented the east coast premiere of John Harbison’s *Crossroads* for soprano, oboe, and strings.

Among her other recordings are soprano soloist in *Mass for a Sacred Place* by Stephen Paulus that was recorded by the Cathedral Choral Society in the National Cathedral and four solo CD’s of art songs. *Hat er mir Rosen gebracht* - 25 songs by Joseph Marx; *Le Charme* - a collection of French art songs by Fauré, Debussy, Chausson, and Poulenc; *The Reckless Heart* - a collection of songs by Barber, Britten, Gurney, and Vores; and *Late Air* - a collection of vocal music by John Harbison.

In addition to her performing career Ms. Colton teaches at Oberlin College Conservatory. She also has a personal goal of visiting all of the National Parks in the United States.

