

## **Arminè Kassabian, mezzo-soprano**

**[www.arminekassabian.com](http://www.arminekassabian.com)**

Heralded for her “Rich and Radiant Tone”, mezzo-soprano Arminè Kassabian is quickly establishing herself as one of Canada’s most sought after young artists. Arminè has taken the opera scene by storm with a recent First place win at the Brian Law Opera Competition, Awarded the “Prix Haricléa Darclée 2012” by the Michel Buruiana Bursary, Second place in the New Jersey Verismo Opera Association Competition and a finalist at the Riccardo Zandonai International Competition in Italy 2012. Chosen as a Laureate of the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyrique 2012, she has performed Carmen’s Bizet opera in China in 2012-2013.

Upcoming opera engagements for the 2013-2014 seasons include: Festival Opéra Saint Eustache, Mercedes in Carmen with Opera Lyra, Composer in Ariadne auf Naxos with PacificVictoria Opera, Kate Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly with Opera Lyra. In the 2011-2012 season, Arminè joined the Opera Lyra Studio Young Artist Development program, and appeared with: Jeunesse Musicales Canada, Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques, Hebei Silang Performing Arts LTD, Opera Brasov, Green Mountain Opera Festival, Festival Opéra Saint Eustache and Opera McGill. Role highlights include: Hänsel in Humperdinck’s Hänsel und Gretel; Carmen in La Tragédie de Carmen; Mère-Marie in Poulenc’s Dialogues des Carmélites; Sister of Mercy in Colin Doroschuk’s Evangeline, Ruggiero in Handel’s Alcina and First Witch in Purcell’s Dido and Aeneas, Dorabella in Mozart’s Così fan Tutte, Carmen and Mercedes with Les Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques, Cinderella in Cenerentola and Rosie in The Barber of Bytown with Opera Lyra’s Studio educational adaptation.

On the concert stage Arminè is quite active in both Oratorio and Recital. Highlights include Bach’s St. Mathew Passion, Vivaldi’s Gloria and Bach Magnificat with the Cantabile Chorale, Handel’s Messiah with the CAMMAC Gatineau-Ottawa Choir under the baton of Maestro Louis Lavigueur. As a recitalist, she has performed with Music and Beyond Festival & Ottawa Chorale Society, le Festival Expressions Artistique d’ici d’Ailleurs, Les Concerts Ponticello and the Cultural Society of Armenians of Istanbul. Arminè had the privilege performing in Master-Classes at the Centre d’art Orford, Green Mountain Opera Festival and Opera Lyra with Edith Bers, Michael McMahon, Chantal Lambert Sanford Sylvan, John Fanning, Kathryn LaBouff, Tyronne Paterson, Peter Strummer and many more. Arminè holds an Artist Diploma, M.Mus and B.Mus from the Schulich School of Music of McGill University.

## **Yehonatan Berick, violinist**

**[www.yehonatanberick.com](http://www.yehonatanberick.com)**

In high demand internationally since becoming a prizewinner at the 1993 Naumburg Violin Competition, YEHONATAN BERICK enjoys a busy concert schedule as soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and pedagogue, throughout North America, Europe and Israel.

Berick has performed, among others, with the Quebec, Winnipeg, Windsor, Ann Arbor, Grand Junction, Jerusalem and Haifa Symphonies, the Israeli, Cincinnati, Montreal and Manitoba Chamber Orchestras, Thirteen Strings and Ensemble Appassionata.

Berick's many recital programs include offering of complete cycles, including Bach's complete Sonatas and Partitas, Paganini's 24 caprices (each cycle performed in a single day or concert), as well as complete Sonata cycles by Brahms, Beethoven, Schumann, and Grieg.

He has collaborated with many world renowned artists, including pianists Menahem Pressler and James Tocco, violists Michael Tree and Paul Neubauer, cellists David Soyer and Peter Wiley; clarinetists Wolfgang Meyer and James Campbell, flutist Julius Baker, and many others from a long list of internationally renowned artists.

Berick is currently a member of the Los Angeles Piano Quartet. He previously held the position of co-artistic director of the Quebec Chamber Music Society. Touring as a chamber musician with Musicians from Marlboro, The Lortie-Berick-Lysy Piano Trio, the Huberman String Quartet, Concertante Chamber Players, The Walden Chamber Players, and other chamber ensembles, he has been featured in the world's most important music centers

On CD, Berick has recorded for the Centaur, Summit, Gasparo, Acoma, JMC and Helicon labels. Many of his concerts are broadcast on Radio and TV in Canada, Europe and Israel.

As a teacher, Berick is equally sought after as violin teacher and chamber music mentor. Prior to his current appointment as Professor of Violin at the University of Ottawa, he served on the faculties of the University of Michigan, McGill University, as well as University of Toronto and the Eastman School of Music, and has been featured in masterclasses worldwide. Many of his students hold positions in leading orchestras, ensembles, and universities.

Yehonatan Berick started his musical education at the age of six. Having graduated from highschool at 16, he entered the Tel Aviv University's Music Academy, and completed his studies at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, earning a full tuition and a Summacum Lauda. One of the brightest talents of Israel, Berick won several Clairemont Awards, and received yearly stipends from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

Yehonatan Berick is currently playing on a violin by Honore Derazey Père from 1852, and on a viola by Stanley Kiernoziak from 2003.