

MARION NEWMAN

MEZZO-SOPRANO



In Bramwell Tovey's "Ancestral Voices" with Vancouver Symphony –

"With the rich and darkly-hued vocal fabric and searching legato line of First Nations mezzo Marion Newman guiding the way, these four songs impressed by their depth of feeling, leading us into the hopes and despair of the indigenous peoples with immediacy."

Geoffrey Newman, Vancouver Classical Music

As Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* with Opera Lyra Ottawa –

"Marion Newman's Rosina is charming, playful, and quite believable as a young starlet hemmed in by her keepers. Her sumptuous mezzo tone and impressive vocal agility takes the spotlight in 'Una voce poco fa'..."

Chrissy Steinbock, Apt. 613

BIOGRAPHY

A critically acclaimed mezzo-soprano of Kwagiulth and Stó:lō First Nations with English, Irish and Scottish heritage, Marion Newman was born in Bella Coola and grew up in Sooke, BC. She is one of Canada's most accomplished singers in repertoire from Vivaldi to Vivier. As **Carmen**, the Irish Examiner noted "she sparked an electricity which totally engrossed the audience with her superbly sinuous sexuality... Prudes may raise their eyebrows at the sensuality of this **Carmen**; theatregoers will clamour for more.". Nominated for a Dora Award for her leading role in the world premiere of *Shanawdithit* (Nolan/Burly) with Toronto's Tapestry Opera, Ian Ritchie wrote "she invests her character with towering dignity and courage".

Marion portrayed **Dr. Wilson** in the premiere of *Missing* (Clements/Current) with Vancouver City Opera/Pacific Opera Victoria, which gives voice, in English and Gitksan, to the story of Canada's missing and murdered Indigenous women. In 2023, Marion debuts with Anchorage Opera in their production of *Missing*.

Highlights for the 2022/23 season include Cantaloube's *Chants d'Auvergne* with Vancouver Island Symphony, *Messiah* with Vancouver Bach Choir, Bruckner's *Te Deum* and the world premiere of Stephanie Martin's *Water*, with Grand Philharmonic Choir and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.

Recent guest appearances include Mozart's *Requiem*, a digital co-production with Canadian Opera Company and Against the Grain Theatre, *The Echoes Project* with Gryphon Trio, and *Five Songs on Poems of Marilyn Dumont* (Cusson) with the New Orford String Quartet, for Cecilia Concerts in Halifax.

Marion has sung many works that speak to her First Nations identity, including a Canada-wide tour of *Ancestral Voices* (Tovey) with the Vancouver Symphony and *Nuyamk-ik Kulhulmx - Singing the Earth* (Höstman/Robinson) with the Victoria and Vancouver Symphonies and Continuum Concerts in Toronto.

Marion created the role of **Dawn** with Welsh National Opera in the July 2022 world premiere of *Migrations*, with stories by five writers based on their personal experiences of migrations and working with refugees. Also with Welsh National Opera, Marion stars in the premiere of *The Shoemaker*, a fusion of Latin American, Persian and Western classical musical influences, and performs in *Migrations* UK tour.

In addition to her extensive performing career, Marion is a Co-Founder of Amplified Opera and the host of CBC's *Saturday Afternoon at the Opera*.

SELECTED RESUME

OPERA

Mother *Hansel and Gretel* | Edmonton Opera

Shanawdithit *Shanawdithit* (Burly/Nolan) |

Tapestry Opera/Opera on the Avalon

Dr Wilson *Missing* (Current/Clements) |

City Opera Vancouver, Pacific Opera Victoria

Rosina *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* | Opera Lyra Ottawa

ORATORIO & CONCERT

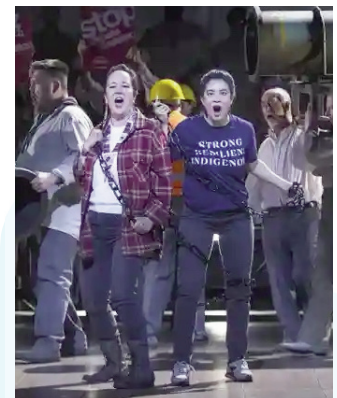
Ancestral Voices (Tovey) | Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

Messiah (Handel) | Symphony Nova Scotia

St. John Passion (Bach) | Kingston Symphony

9th Symphony (Beethoven) | Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

Petite Messe Solennelle (Rossini) | Choeur St. Laurent, Montreal



as **Dawn** in *Migrations*, Welsh National Opera

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