

## Carla Thelen Hanson, soprano

American soprano Carla Thelen Hanson is garnering attention for exciting and vocally thrilling performances of opera's leading heroines throughout the country. Of her New York City Opera debut as Puccini's **Tosca**, *The New York Times* noted, "Ms. Hanson made a strong debut as Tosca, by turns fiery and vulnerable, her voice agreeably dark in its middle range and sufficiently full on top" and the *New Yorker* exclaims "her dark-grained, strongly felt "Vissi d'arte" sailed right up to the uppermost balcony." She received equal praise for portrayals of **Maddalena de Coigny** in *Andrea Chenier* for Mobile Opera, as well as the title roles of **Ariadne auf Naxos** and **Norma**, both with Union Ave Opera Theatre. Other roles in her repertoire include Verdi's **Aida**, **Leonora** (*Il Trovatore* and *Fidelio*), and **Amelia** (*Boccanegra* and *Un ballo in Maschera*), as well as the recent additions of Strauss' **Salome**, Puccini' **Turandot**, Wagner' **Senta** and **Sieglinde**.

The success of her transition into this repertoire has been recognized by her participation in Seattle Opera's 2008 International Wagner Competition, won 2nd place in the 2008 Gerda Lissner Foundation and a 2009 study grant from the New York Wagner Society. Additional recent engagements include covering **Gerhilde**, **Helmwige**, and **Ortlinde** in *Die Walküre* in August 2009 with the Seattle Opera; performing **Tosca** and covering **Magda** in *La Rondine* with New York City Opera; performing **Maddalena** in *Andrea Chenier* with Mobile Opera; covering **Amelia** in *Simon Boccanegra*, **Resi** in *Intermezzo*, and **Bacchis** in *La Belle Hélène* with the Santa Fe Opera, performing **Ariadne** in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and **Norma** with Union Avenue Opera Theatre, covering **Norma** with the Virginia Opera, and performing **Röschen** in the U.S. premiere of dame Ethyl Smyth's *The Forest* with the Plymouth Music Series and Philip Brunelle.

On the concert stage, Ms. Hanson performs with noted symphony orchestras across the country including acclaimed performances of Barber's **Hermit Songs**, Handel's **Messiah**, Harbison's **Mirabai Songs**, Mozart's **Exultate Jubilate**, Orff's **Carmina Burana**, Rutter's **Feel the Spirit**, Strauss's **Vier Letzte Lieder**, Verdi's **Requiem**, and Vivaldi's **Gloria** and **Motetto**. Ms. Hanson is Professor of Voice and Music Appreciation at Rochester Community and Technical College. She is happy to sing her first Beethoven 9th Symphony with the Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale in November, 2009.