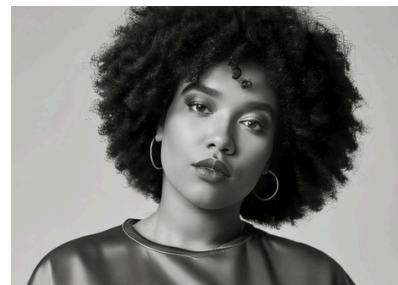


LAURYN NELSON

MEZZO-SOPRANO

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FULL BIO

Chicago Mezzo-Soprano Lauryn McKenzie Nelson has made a splash in the opera scene, particularly noted for her distinctively rich, alto timbre and captivating stage presence. Lauryn recently completed her Master of Music degree in vocal performance from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, following her Bachelor of Music in classical vocal performance from DePaul University.

Her artistry has earned her numerous accolades, including the 2024 District Winner of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition in Illinois, 2023 encouragement awards in both Illinois and Minnesota districts of the Laffont competition, the 2023 National Opera Association's Legacy Award for her exceptional performance in the Carolyn Bailey Argento Vocal Competition, and the Farwell Trust Award from the Musician's Club of Women Competition. Lauryn is currently the mezzo studio artist at The Florentine Opera, where she is excited to bring new roles to the stage and a plethora of unique concerts across Mil. She also recently served as an apprentice artist with Sarasota Opera, where she brought to life scenes from her favorite operas, including *Aida*, *Edgar*, and *Così fan tutte*.

Lauryn's recent performances include role debuts as Mrs. Nolan in Menotti's *The Medium* and *The Singer* in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* with The Opera Festival of Chicago. She also made her company debut with The Florentine Opera, singing the role of The Mother in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. She has also portrayed the Medium in Christopher Cerrone's new opera *In a Grove*, Second Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, and Bradamante in Handel's *Alcina*. Upcoming roles include Pipetto in Donizetti's *Viva la Mamma* and Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*.

In addition to her opera roles, Lauryn has displayed her versatility as the Alto Soloist in Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the North Shore Choral Society and as a featured singer with The Adrian Dunn Singers, a renowned gospel choir that is currently touring across The United States and Europe. Her repertoire spans a rich spectrum, from Verdi and Brahms to Massenet, Heggie, Donizetti, Tchaikovsky, Price, Magogo, and beyond, embodying her commitment to showcasing a wide range of composers and styles. A dedicated advocate for Black storytelling in opera, Lauryn's performances resonate with her focus on narratives that celebrate and uplift Black voices. Lauryn's artistry and dedication continue to distinguish her as a rising star in the operatic world, making her an exciting talent to watch.

300 WORDS

Chicago-based Mezzo-Soprano Lauryn McKenzie Nelson has captivated audiences with her rich alto timbre and compelling stage presence. A recent graduate of Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music (M.M.) and DePaul University (B.M.), Lauryn's artistry has garnered numerous accolades, including winning the 2024 Illinois District of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, the 2023 National Opera Association's Legacy Award, and the Farwell Trust Award from the Musicians Club of Women Competition.

Lauryn is currently the mezzo studio artist with The Florentine Opera. Recent highlights include her company debut with The Florentine as The Mother in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. Other debuts include Mrs. Nolan in Menotti's *The Medium*, and *The Singer* in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* with The Opera Festival of Chicago. Other notable roles include Bradamante in Handel's *Alcina*, Second Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, and *The Medium* in Christopher Cerrone's *In a Grove*. Upcoming performances include Pipetto in Donizetti's *Viva la Mamma* and Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*.

Lauryn's versatility extends to concert work, with performances as the Alto Soloist in Vivaldi's *Gloria* and as a featured singer with The Adrian Dunn Singers, a gospel ensemble touring the U.S. and Europe. Her diverse repertoire spans Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Massenet, Price, Heggie, and beyond, reflecting her dedication to showcasing a broad array of composers and styles. A passionate advocate for Black storytelling in opera, Lauryn focuses on narratives that celebrate and uplift Black voices. With her dynamic artistry and commitment to impactful storytelling, Lauryn Nelson continues to establish herself as an exciting and influential presence in the operatic world.

150 WORDS

Chicago-based Mezzo-Soprano Lauryn McKenzie Nelson is known for her rich alto timbre and captivating stage presence. A graduate of Northwestern University (M.M.) and DePaul University (B.M.), she has earned numerous accolades, including winning the 2024 Illinois District of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, the 2023 National Opera Association's Legacy Award, and the Musician's Club of Women Farwell Trust Award. Currently a studio artist with The Florentine Opera, Lauryn debuted with the company as The Mother in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. Other recent roles include Mrs. Nolan in Menotti's *The Medium*, *The Singer* in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, Bradamante in Handel's *Alcina*, and 2nd Lady in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. Upcoming performances feature Pipetto in Donizetti's *Viva la Mamma* and Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*. A versatile performer, Lauryn has sung Vivaldi's *Gloria* as Alto Soloist and toured with The Adrian Dunn Singers.