

# LAURYN NELSON

MEZZO-SOPRANO

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## FULL BIO - 430 WORDS

Chicago-based mezzo-soprano Lauryn Nelson is making a striking impression on the opera scene. She is praised for her rich timbre and commanding stage presence. She recently earned her Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, following a Bachelor of Music from DePaul University.

Lauryn's artistry has garnered numerous accolades, including Grand Prize at the Patricia Crump Competition, Second Place in the 2025 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (Central Region), First Place in the 2024 Illinois District, and Encouragement Awards in both the Illinois and Minnesota Districts (2023). She also received the 2023 National Opera Association's Legacy Award and the Farwell Trust Award from the Musicians Club of Women Competition.

Lauryn recently completed her 2-year residency as the Mezzo Studio Artist with The Florentine Opera, where she embraced a season filled with role debuts, notable cover roles, and a diverse array of concert performances throughout the Milwaukee area.

Recent operatic highlights include Antonia's Mother in Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen*, Pipetto in Donizetti's *Viva la Mamma!*, and the mother in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. She also appeared as Mrs. Nolan in Menotti's *The Medium* and *The Singer* in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* with the Opera Festival of Chicago. While at The Florentine Opera, Lauryn covered many leading roles, including Suzuki, *Carmen*, Donna Elvira, and Nicklausse. Other notable performances include *The Medium* in Christopher Cerrone's *In a Grove*, *Second Lady* in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, and *Bradamante* in Handel's *Alcina*. Upcoming engagements include *Tisbe* in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with Opera San Antonio, a return to The Florentine Opera as *Second Lady* in *Die Zauberflöte*, and participation in the Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Artist Program, where she will cover the *Deaconess* in Szymanowski's *King Roger*.

Beyond the opera stage, Lauryn's versatility has shone as the Alto Soloist in various concert works, including Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the North Shore Choral Society, Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with the Music Institute of Chicago, and *El Amor Brujo* with the Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra. Lauryn is also a featured singer with The Adrian Dunn Singers, a celebrated gospel ensemble currently touring the United States and Europe. Her repertoire spans a rich spectrum, from Verdi and Brahms to Massenet, Cilea, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Price, and Magogo, reflecting her dedication to championing a diverse range of composers and styles. A passionate advocate for diversity in opera, Lauryn is committed to inclusion and bringing this art form to all communities. Her artistry, depth of interpretation, and unwavering dedication continue to distinguish her as a rising force in the operatic world and an artist to watch.

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## CONDENSED BIO ~250 WORDS

Chicago-based mezzo-soprano Lauryn Nelson is making a striking impression on the opera scene, praised for her rich timbre and commanding stage presence. She holds degrees in vocal performance from Northwestern University and DePaul University.

Her artistry has been recognized with numerous honors, including Grand Prize at the Patricia Crump Competition, Second Place in the 2025 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (Central Region), First Place in the 2024 Illinois District, and Encouragement Awards in both the Illinois and Minnesota Districts. She is also a recipient of the National Opera Association's Legacy Award and the Farwell Trust Award from the Musicians Club of Women.

Lauryn recently completed a two-year residency as the Mezzo Studio Artist with The Florentine Opera, where she appeared in concert throughout Milwaukee and on stage in all 7 mainstage productions. Her roles with the Florentine include Antonia's Mother in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Mercedes in *Carmen*, Pipetto in *Viva la Mamma!*, and The Mother in *Madama Butterfly*. Lauryn also covered multiple leading roles, including Nicklausse, Donna Elvira, *Carmen*, and Suzuki. Other engagements include performances as Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium*, *The Singer* in *Manon Lescaut*, *The Medium* in *In a Grove*, *Second Lady* in *Die Zauberflöte*, and *Bradamante* in *Alcina*.

Upcoming engagements include *Tisbe* in *La Cenerentola* with Opera San Antonio, a return to The Florentine Opera as *Second Lady* in *Die Zauberflöte*, and participation in the Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Artist Program, where she will cover the *Deaconess* in *King Roger*. Lauryn continues to emerge as a compelling voice and rising artist to watch.

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## CONDENSED BIO ~150 WORDS

Chicago-based mezzo-soprano Lauryn Nelson is making a striking impression on the opera scene, praised for her rich timbre and commanding stage presence. She holds degrees in vocal performance from Northwestern and DePaul.

She has been honored to win the Grand Prize at the Patricia Crump Competition, Second Place in the 2025 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition (Central Region), First Place in the 2024 Illinois District, and awards from the National Opera Association and the Musicians Club of Women.

Lauryn recently completed a two-year residency as the Mezzo Studio Artist with The Florentine Opera, where she performed in all 7 mainstage productions. Her roles included Antonia's Mother in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Mercedes in *Carmen*, Pipetto in *Viva la Mamma!*, and The Mother in *Madama Butterfly*. Upcoming engagements include *Tisbe* in *La Cenerentola* with Opera San Antonio, *Second Lady* in *Die Zauberflöte* with The Florentine Opera, and the DMMO Apprentice Artist Program, where she covers *Deaconess* in *King Roger*.