

## BARBARA COLE WALTON

CCSF SCHOLAR, Belle Shenkman Award for the Study of Arts

From reciting Roald Dahl poetry as a child to having an English grandma, Barbara dreamed of coming to the UK from a young age and was thrilled to secure a place at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to do a Masters of Music in Vocal Performance. Unheard of for a first year student, Barbara played Queen of the Night in the Magic Flute and she has gone from strength to strength since then. She is currently in her second year at the Alexander Gibson Opera School in Glasgow.

Barbara's studies are performance based which means minimal classroom time and maximal vocal and acting (even stage combat!) preparation. Upcoming roles require delivery in German and French and, of particular note, she will be singing the lead role in a Poulenc opera in March 2015. Barbara even has a keen group of local supporters in Glasgow who come to her operas, opera scenes and competitions.

During her time at the RCS, Barbara placed 2nd in the Ye Cronies Opera Award (2014), won the Governors' Recital Prize in Singing (2012) and was 'commended' in the Margaret Dick Award (2012). Barbara is proud to be a 2014 recipient of the Sylva Gelber Music Foundation Award.

With a gorgeous smile and incredible positivity, Barbara's enthusiasm is infectious. On health and fitness, the coloratura soprano laughs and shares her routine of garlic cloves and olive oil for sore throats and using 'boring' trips to the gym as an opportunity to learn her music and lines. Apart from conventional operatic performances, Barbara also enjoys working on contemporary music and, if there is any spare time, she likes to read and even has a baking blog.

Barbara is hardworking and dedicated to her career as an opera singer. Upon completion of her studies, she hopes to get experience performing in Europe although Canada is never far from her heart and mind. As a teenager, Barbara had season tickets to the opera in Victoria and she would love to be able to go back there one day as a performer. In the meantime, despite the 'dire' weather, Barbara enjoys living in Glasgow and has made some lovely friends who remind her of the warm natured people back in British Columbia.



Barbara Cole Walton as 'Queen of the Night' in The Magic Flute by Mozart

November 2014