



# Briana Elyse Hunter

## Mezzo-soprano

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### Biography

Mezzo-soprano **Briana Hunter** hailed by Opera News as “mesmerizing...contributing a fiery theatrical presence and dynamic vocalism” is at the precipice of a very promising career in opera. This summer she joins the roster at the Glimmerglass Festival performing the role of Annie in *Porgy and Bess* and covering Arsamene in *Xerxes*. In the fall Ms. Hunter returns to Michigan Opera Theater for their 2017-18 season under the direction of Maestro Stephen Lord and Tenor Richard Leech.

In 2012/2013 she participated in I SING BEIJING where she studied Mandarin, coached both Chinese and Western repertoire, and performed opera scenes and Chinese art songs in multiple concerts in several Beijing venues including the city’s top performance hall, The National Center for the Performing Arts. Winter 2013 Ms. Hunter joined Sarasota Opera as an Apprentice Artist and returned in the fall to sing the role of Ida in *Die Fledermaus* and cover the role of Prince Orlofsky. That summer was spent working with the great French Tenor Michel Sénéchal in the southwestern Périgord region of France, and then in Aub, Germany with her voice teacher Neil Semer performing several concerts and participating in masterclasses in both locations. In between, she tackled the Russian language with Opera Slavica in their production of *Iolanta* singing the role of Laura.

In 2014/15 she created the role of Rachel in the world premiere of *Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed That Line to Freedom*, and the role of Play by Play in the world premiere of *Bum Phillips!* with Monk Parrot, Inc. at LaMama Experimental Theater (a role she reprised in 2015 in TX). Later that spring she competed as a Lotte Lenya Competition finalist and took home the Lys Symonette award. That summer she worked closely with Marilyn Horne and sang her very first Carmen in the eponymously titled opera with Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, CA to rave reviews saying “Hunter consistently displayed impressive fluidity in her flawless “Habanera” and “Seguidilla.” In 2015 she sang her first Mercedes in Knoxville Opera’s production of Carmen, and in March reprised the title role of Carmen in *La tragédie de Carmen* with Opera in the Heights in Houston, TX. That summer she joined Santa Fe Opera as an Apprentice Artist, and returned for a second summer with SFO in 2016.

In 2016 she reprised the role of Mercedes in two productions of *Carmen*, the first with El Paso Opera in February and the next with Michigan Opera Theater where she performed as a studio artist for the 2016-17 season. Other roles at MOT included Jo *Little Women*, Wowkle in *La fanciulla del West*, and Madeleine Audebert in *Silent Night*.

Ms. Hunter holds a M.M. from Manhattan School of Music and a B.A. from Davidson College. Briana Elyse Hunter hails from Malvern, Pennsylvania and currently resides in Detroit, MI.