



HELENA BROWN

Soprano



BIOGRAPHY

Lauded as having a "stunningly large round sound," as well as a "steely, velvety" timbre, American dramatic soprano, Helena Brown, is quickly distinguishing herself as a force of nature for the international stages. Recently, Helena made her role debuts as Mrs. Dickson in Ricky Ian Gordon and Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel* at **Lincoln Center Theater**, Sieglinde in *Die Walküre* with **Miami Wagner Institute**, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* with **Rioja Lirica/DIVARIA Productions**, Female Chorus in *The Rape of Lucretia* with **New Camerata Opera**, as well as Serena and Strawberry Woman in *Porgy and Bess* on the **New York Harlem Theater** European tour at the **Grand Théâtre de Genève**, **Chassé Theater**, and **Amsterdam RAI**. She appeared at the **Metropolitan Opera** as an ensemble soloist in *Porgy and Bess*. Her feature can be seen on the Met HD broadcast of the production, as well as PBS Great Performances. Additional appearances include the **Glimmerglass Festival** for multiple seasons, most notably to sing Isabella in the American premiere of *The Siege of Calais*; Bloody Mary in *South Pacific* at **Opera Roanoke**, concerts with the **Norwalk Symphony Orchestra** and **New Haven Symphony Orchestra**; and as a featured soloist with **LOFTrecital** and **Out of the Box Opera**.

Helena has received awards such as the Top Prize, **Robert Lauch Award** from the **Wagner Society of New York**, the **Sergio Franchi Award** in the **Deborah Voigt/Vero Beach Opera Competition**, Second Place in the **Young Patronesses of the Opera/Florida Grand Opera Vocal Competition**, as well as awards/grants from the **Gerda Lissner Foundation**, **Giulio Gari Foundation**, **Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions** in Philadelphia, the **Jensen Foundation**, **Cooper-Bing Competition**, **Opera at Florham**, **Opera Birmingham**, **Opera Ebony Benjamin Matthews**, and the **MetroWest Opera Vocal Competition** in Boston.

Formerly a mezzo-soprano, Helena was a young artist at the 2016 **Glimmerglass Festival** where she performed Rebecca Nurse and covered Tituba under the baton of Nicole Paiement in Francesca Zambello's acclaimed production of *The Crucible*. Additionally, Helena appeared with **Minnesota Opera**, performing Dryad in *Ariadne auf Naxos*; sang Addie in *Regina* and Mrs. Herring in *Albert Herring* at **Bronx Opera**; covered Mama McCourt in *Ballad of Baby Doe* with **Chautauqua Opera**; and covered Grandmother Buryjovka in *Jenůfa* with **Des Moines Metro Opera**, where she also appeared in scenes concerts as Dalila in *Samson et Dalila*, Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff*, Martha in *Faust*, and Filippyevna in *Eugene Onegin*.



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As a Masters student at **Manhattan School of Music**, Helena Brown performed the roles of the Witch in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Klementia in Hindemith's *Sancta Susanna*, Madame Halitiere in *Cendrillon*, Queen Jezebel and Angel in *Elijah*, and in Mignon Dunn's beloved scenes program, played Martha in *Faust*, Leonora in *La Favorita*, and Erste Magd in *Elektra*. She also appeared at the **Crittenden Opera Festival** as La Zia Principessa in *Suor Angelica* and Marcellina in scenes from *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

No stranger to contemporary music, Helena has premiered compositions as well as principal roles in opera and theater. Notably, she sang the cycle *Feast* for Pierrot ensemble, by Rebecca Erin Smith, in its premiere and remount at the **Manhattan School of Music**; participated in David Lang's *Mile Long Opera* on **The High Line** in New York City; and the remount of Eric Salzman's *Big Jim and the Small Time Investors* at **Symphony Space** in New York. Helena also performed the actor-singer role of Mother in *Bellocq's Ophelia*, written by U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, which was presented in festival at the **Kennedy Center**.

Helena holds a Master's degree from **Manhattan School of Music** as well as a Bachelor's degree in Music, Summa Cum Laude, from **Hollins University** where she also studied arts management and theatre.