

GERDA FINDEISEN

SOPRANO

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Member de l'Union des Artistes (QC, Canada) • English, French, German, Italian, Swiss-German • 180 cm, 66 kg, Blue eyes

Profile : Lanaudière Festival • Tournées Jeunesses Musicales • Winner Crescendo-Festival, WOW-Opera-contest

BIOGRAPHY

Helveto-Canadian Swiss soprano Gerda Findeisen is known for her radiant vocal timbre paired with a richly expressive musicality. On the opera stage, some of her roles include *Donna Elvira* (Don Giovanni/ Mozart) *Zerbinetta* (Ariadne auf Naxos/ Strauss), *Ophélie* (Hamlet/ Ambroise Thomas), *Olympia* (Les Contes d'Hoffmann/ Offenbach) and *Zempeolla* (Indian Queen / Purcell). Gerda Findeisen has had the privilege to collaborate with numerous renowned conductors, including Peter Dala, Kent Nagano, Jean-Philippe Tremblay, Franz-Paul Decker, Wayne Ridell, Nicolau de Figueiredo, and Fritz Näf. She has been a soloist with the Orchestra del Teatro Communale di Bologna, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Octuor de France and has performed at prestigious festivals, including the Lanaudière Festival, the Zempleni Festival in Hungary, and the New Jersey Baroque Festival (USA).

On the concert-stage, Gerda Findeisen is an avid explorer of new repertoire. She could be heard in *Offenes Lied* by John Rea, with Trio Résonances in D. Argento's *To be Sung upon the Water*, Thibaudeau's *Cantate pour un fleuve (creation)* and in the opera *Fata Morgana*, written in the fascinating semi-improvised sound painting-style. She has been the featured soloist in several silent film-productions (The Phantom of the Opera, 1925, The Hunchback of Notre-Dame, 1923), en tournée in France, Italy, Switzerland and Canada. In oratorio, she has recently been a soloist in J.S. Bach's *Weihnachtsoratorium* (Drummondville), as well as in Camille Saint-Saëns' *Oratorio Noël*, Pietro Mascagni's *Regina Coeli*, and Antonio Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus*.

Gerda Findeisen is a graduate of the Musikhochschule Zürich and the University of Montreal and received further training at the Orford Arts Centre, Opera Nuova, Nouvel Opéra and Oberlin. Some of her teachers and mentors include Stefano Algieri, Louise-Andrée Baril, Dana Nigrim, Nino Castel, Janet Perry, Adrienne Savoie, Jeanette Aster, Richard Margison, Aline Kutan, Jane Thorner-Mengedoht and Arlene Shrut.

Winner of the Crescendo International Arts Festival-Competition and the WOW-Contest in New York, recipient of bursaries by the Canada Conseil of the Arts and the University of Montreal, she also participated as semi-finalist in the Classical Singer- and Centre for Contemporary Opera-competitions in New York. \

CURRICULUM VITAE

Performances - Opera

Composer : Work - Role	Company, Orchestra, Place - Stage director, Conductor (p=piano)	Date
W. A. Mozart, Don Giovanni - Donna Elvira	Vincent d'Indy, Montreal - <i>Scalia</i>	2020
Rosen, Duette um die Wette - <i>Sophie, Lakmé, a.o.</i>	Opera Mobile, Weiningen (Swi.) - <i>Muth, Bosshard</i>	2018-20
Gounod/Thibaudeau, Phantom of the Opera (film) - Marguerite	Octuor de France, Paris Baltard (Fr.) - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2017
Gounod/Thibaudeau, Phantom of the Opera (film) - Marguerite	Octuor de France, Ferrara Opera (It.) - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2016
Gounod/Thibaudeau, Phantom of the Opera (film) - Marguerite	Orchestre Conc. Cinémat, Palais Montcalm - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2016
Gounod/Thibaudeau, Phantom of the Opera (film) - Marguerite	Orch. Conc. Cinématogr., Festival Lanaudière - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2015
Thomas, A., Hamlet - Op'hélie	Opera by Request Tournée, Montral, Toronto - <i>Shookoff</i>	2014
La Folie Folle (mad scenes) - Woman	Tournée: France, Montreal - <i>Aster, Baril</i>	2012
Gounod/Thibaudeau, Phantom of the Opera (film) - Marguerite	Orch. Conc. Cinémat. Montreal, PdA - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2011
Gounod/Thibaudeau, Phantom of the Opera (film) - Marguerite	Orchestra Teatro Bologna (It.) - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2011
Hommages aux Divines (scenes), <i>Olympia, Morgana</i>	Opera Theatre of Rimouski - <i>Robin, McLean</i>	2010
Purcell, H., The Indian Queen - Zempoella	Baroque Orchestra New Jersey (USA) - <i>Diamond, Butts</i>	2010
La Folie Folle - Femme	Université de Montreal - <i>Racine, Baril (p)</i>	2010
McLeer, T., House - Kristy	Remarkable Theatre Brigade NYC (USA) - <i>Harte, McLeer</i>	2009
Gala - <i>Lucia, Olympia, Cunegonde, Sophie, a.o.</i>	Conseil d'Arts St-Léon-Le-Grand - <i>Lazin, Nigrim</i>	2008,10
Adams, J., Nixon in China (sél.) - Chiang Ch'ing	Opera Studio University of Montreal - <i>Pedrotti, Wheeler</i>	2007
W. A. Mozart, Zauberflöte - Königin der Nacht	Jeunesses Musicales du Canada - <i>Racine, Pelletier</i>	2006
Offenbach, J., Contes d'Hoffmann - Olympia	Opera Nuova, Edmonton (Ca.) - <i>Gately, Dala</i>	2006
Verdi, Mozart, Gala - Violetta, 3. Dame	Zempléni Festival (Hu.) - <i>Toth, Dallos</i>	2004
Strauss, R., Ariadne auf Naxos - Zerbinetta	Orford Arts Centre (Ca.) - <i>Hollweg, Grossmann</i>	

Performances - Concert

Jardin Musical, <i>Mixed Recital-programs</i>	Dorval, Qc	2020-22
J.S. Bach, <i>Weihnachtsoratorium</i>	Choeur Bella Donna & Orchestre de ch. Seigneuries - <i>Copland</i>	2019
Thibaudeau, G., Bossu de Notre-Dame - <i>Esmeralda</i>	Soc. Arts Technologiques Montréal - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2019
Wach auf ! (with dancer) - <i>The Voice</i>	Sandstø Productions, Tournée (Switz.) - <i>A capella</i>	2019
Recital, Ode to Spring (<i>Rumanian, French songs</i>)	Series Tradicious, Spadina Theatre Toronto - <i>Nigrim</i>	2017
Recital, Couleurs (<i>Debussy</i>)	Oasis Musicale, Montréal - <i>Nigrim</i>	2016
Thibaudeau, G., Bossu de Notre-Dame - <i>Esmeralda</i>	Filmpodium-Festival, Zürich (Switz.), Trio - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2016
Thibaudeau, G. Cantate pour un Fleuve - <i>Soprano</i>	Orchestre Concerts Cinémato., Beauharnois - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2013
Saint-Saëns, C., Oratorio de Noël - <i>Soprano</i>	Choeur Bella Donna & Orchestre de ch. Seigneuries - <i>Copland</i>	2013
Mascagni, P., Regina Coeli; Dvorak, Te Deum - <i>Soprano</i>	Choeur Bella Donna & Orchestre de ch. Seigneuries - <i>Copland</i>	2012
Mozart, W. A., Krönungs-, Spatzenmesse - <i>Soprano</i>	Notre-Dame Basilica (Mtl.) - <i>Baillargeon, Grandmaison</i>	2011-12
Händel, G. F., Laudate, Dominum, Pueri - <i>Soprano</i>	Choeur Bella Donna & Orchestre de ch. Seigneuries - <i>Copland</i>	2011
Recital, Arien-Abend - <i>Soprano</i>	Séries Maison Glarner (Swi.) - <i>Lüthy</i>	2011
Recitals, (<i>chamber music</i>) - <i>Soprano</i>	Les Chambristes Stupéfiants UdM - <i>Vaillancourt</i>	2006-9
Allegrì, Miserer Mei Deus - <i>Soprano</i>	Église Saint-Viateur d'Outremont - <i>Beauséjour</i>	2009
Vivaldi, A., Vengo a voi (<i>RV 682</i>) - <i>Soprano</i>	Baroque Ensemble University of Montreal - <i>Little</i>	2009
Bach, J. S., Mass in B-minor - <i>Soprano</i>	Cantabile Orch. & Chorale (Mtl.) - <i>Willsher</i>	2008
Schütz, H., Jauchzet dem Herren - <i>Soprano</i>	Notre-Dame Basilica (Mtl.) - <i>Baillargeon/ Grandmaison</i>	2007
Bach, J. S., Christ lag in Todesbanden - <i>Soprano</i>	Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Church, Montreal - <i>Martin</i>	2006
Vivaldi, A., In Furore (<i>RV 626</i>) - <i>Soprano</i>	St. Andrew + St. Paul Church (Mtl.) - <i>Jobin-Bevans</i>	
Schubert, F., Mass in G-Major - <i>Soprano</i>	St. Andrew + St. Paul Church (Mtl.) - <i>Wheatcroft/Ward</i>	
Händel, G. F., Dixit Dominus; Messiah - <i>Soprano</i>	St. Andrew + St. Paul Church (Mtl.) - <i>Wheatcroft/Ward</i>	

Prizes, Scholarships

- 1st Prize : International Crescendo Competition (Hu.) / WOW Aria-Contest (USA) / 2004,8
- Laureate : Contemporary Opera Centre NYC (USA) / Classical Singer-Competition (USA) / 2004-8
- Bursaries/Grants : Canada Council for the Arts / Opera Nuova / Orford Arts Centre / Oberlin / UdM B. Gadbois / 2001-11

Formation, Collaboration

- **Conductors** : William Butts / James Copland / Peter Dala / Franz-Paul Decker / Nicolau de Figueiredo / Agnes Grossmann / Fritz Näf / Kent Nagano / Hervé Niquet / Wayne Ridell / Gabriel Thibaudeau /
- **Festivals** : Baroque Festival NJ / Bologna Cineteca / Fantasia / Festival Lanaudière / Festival Zempleni / Filmfestival Zürich /
- **Stage Directors** : Jeanette Aster / David Gately / Alain Gauthier / Regina Heer / Titus Hollweg / Martin Markun / Hans Nieuwenhuis / François Racine / Peter Rasky / Nando Schellen / Janos Toth /
- **Coachings** : Louise-Andrée Baril / Erika Dallos / Kaspar Dechmann / Brahm Goldhamer / Peter Grabovsky / Stuart Hamilton / Michael McMahon / Dana A. Nigrim / Arlene Shrut / Paul Suits / Alex Weiman /
- **Mentors, Teachers** : Stefano Algieri / Nino Castel / Aline Kutan / Richard Margison / Ionel Pantea / Janet Perry / Adrienne Savoie /
- **DESS, MMUS** : University of Montréal / Musikhochschule Zürich / Konservatorium Basel /

REPERTOIRE

Opera

Cavalli, F.	La Calisto - <i>2da Furia</i>
Donizetti, G.	Lucia di Lammermoor - <i>Lucia</i>
McLeer, C.	House - <i>Kristy</i>
Mozart, W. A.	Don Giovanni - <i>Donna Elvira</i>
Mozart, W. A.	Zauberflöte - <i>Königin der Nacht, 1. Dame, 2. Knabe</i>
Offenbach, J.	Les Contes d'Hoffmann - <i>Olympia</i>
Purcell, H.	Dido & Aeneas - <i>2nd Witch, 2nd Woman</i>
Purcell, H.	The Indian Queen - <i>Zempoella</i>
Strauss, R.	Ariadne auf Naxos - <i>Zerbinetta</i>
Thibaudeau, G.	Fata Morgana - <i>Telly</i>
Thomas, A.	Hamlet - <i>Ophélie</i>
<i>Partial/In work :</i>	
Adams, J.	Nixon in China - <i>Chiang-Ch'ing</i>
Argento, D.	Postcard from Morocco - <i>Mirror-Lady</i>
Bellini, V.	I Puritani - <i>Elvira</i>
Bellini, V.	La Sonnambula - <i>Amina</i>
Bellini, V.	Norma - <i>Norma</i>
Bernstein,	Candide - <i>Cunegonde</i>
Gounod, C.	Faust - <i>Marguerite</i>
Händel, G. F.	Giulio Cesare - <i>Cleopatra</i>
Henze, H. W.	The English Cat - <i>Minette</i>
Meyerbeer, G.	Huguenots - <i>Marguerite</i>
Mozart, W. A.	Entführung aus dem Serail - <i>Konstanze</i>
Verdi, G.	Traviata - <i>Violetta</i>

Oratorio, Concert

Aiblinger, J.	Mass in A-Major
Allegrì, G.	"Miserere Mei, Deus"
Bach, J. S.	Cantata BWV 4: "Christ lag in Todesbanden"
	Cantata BWV 51: "Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen"
	Cantata BWV 57: "Ich ende behende"
	Mass in B-Minor
	Weihnachtsoratorium
	Matthäus Passion
	Johannes Passion
	Missa Brevis
	"Judicium Extremum"
	Magnificat
	Messe de Minuit
	Te Deum
	Te Deum
	"Jubilate Deo Omnis terra" (Motet)
	"Surrexit Christus"
	The Messiah
	Dixit Dominus
	Missa Brevis Brevis in Bb-Major
	Nelson Mass (Missa in Angustiis)
	Stabat Mater
	Missa St. Johannis de Deo
	Kleine Orgelsolomesse
	Vesper in F-Majeur
	Jezebel (Oratorio)
	Ave Maria
	Via Crucis
	Regina Coeli (from 'Cavalleria Rusticana')
	Psalm 55;2-5: "Hör mein Bitten, Herr"
Britten, B.	
Carissimi, G.	
Carissimi, G.	
Charpentier, M.-A.	
Dvorak, A.	
Gabrieli, G.	
Händel, G. F.	
Haydn, J.	
Haydn, Michael	
Holman, D.	
Liszt, F.	
Mascagni, P.	
Mendelssohn, F.	

McIntyre, D. L.	From the Psalms - Song cycle
Mozart, W. A.	Spatzenmesse, KV. 220
	Mass in C-Major, KV. 259
	Exultate, Jubilate, KV. 265
	Mass in C-Minor, KV. 427
Pachelbel, J.	Magnificat
Pergolesi, G. B.	Stabat Mater
Rheinberger, J.	Mass in A-Major
Rheinberger, J.	Mass Bb-Major
Rossini, G.	Hymn: La Carità
	Petite Messe Solennelle
Saint-Saëns, C.	Oratorio de Noël
	Ave Maria
Schubert, F.	Hirtenmesse, Op. 13
	Mass in G-Major, DV 167
Schütz, H.	Psalm 100: "Jauchzet dem Herren" (Motet)
	Psalm 121 (Motet)
	Jubilate Deo (Motet)
Thibaudeau, G.	Beauharnois: Cantate pour un Fleuve
Thibaudeau, G.	Hunchback of Notre-Dame (Silent film, 1925)
	Phantom of the Opera (Silent film, 1923)
Vivaldi, A.	In Furore (Motet)

Lieder, Mélodies, Songs & Chamber music

Argento, Dominick	To be sung upon the Water - Cycle for Trio (soprano, clarinet, piano)
Bédard, Denis	3 Mélodies sur des Poèmes de Saint-Denys Garneau - Cycle
Beydts, Louis	Chansons pour les oiseaux (Cycle)
Brahms, J.	Lieder, Op. 46, 48, 49, 59, 63, 90, 107
Carissimi, G.	Serenata I Naviganti
Debussy, C.	Mélodies, Banville, Bourget, Mallarmé, e.a.
Dvorak, A.	Mährische Duette, Op. 13
Eccles, John	Mad Songs, Selections
Händel, G. F.	9 Deutsche Arien
	Duos pour 2 Sopranos
Ibert, Jacques	2 Stèles Orientées (Duo for soprano, flute)
Janacek, L.	Kinderreime, Selections
Kurtag, G.	Kafka Fragmente, Selections
Martin, Frank	Trois Chants de Noël (Cycle for soprano, flute, piano)
Meyerbeer, G.	Hirtenlied (Trio for soprano, clarinet, piano)
Rea, J.	Offenes Lied (Duo for 2 soprani, clarinet/basse clarinet)
Roussel, A.	2 Duos pour Soprano et Flûte
Schönberg, A.	Das Buch der hängenden Gärten, Selections
Schubert, F.	Der Hirt auf dem Felsen (Trio for soprano, clarinet, piano)
	Lieder, Op. 5, 26, 52, 59, 62, 72, 88, 89, 98
Schumann, R.	Lieder, Op. 25, 36, 42, 83, 104
Strauss, R.	Lieder, Op. 68 + 69
Villa-Lobos, H.	Bacchianas Brasileiras No. 5
Vivaldi, A.	Vengo a Voi, RV 682 (Motet)

PRESS

- "The clou of the spectacle : the coloratura soprano Gerda Findeisen." *Le Devoir, Montreal*

- "Comment ne pas apprécier une qualité vocale de soprano-faucon, qui a littéralement brodé l'agilité et le legato dans les légendaires airs "Il était un roi de Thulé", le célèbre air des bijoux "Ah je ris de me voir si belle en ce miroir", et enfin la mélancolie dans l'air original (Thibaudeau) "Tu m'amenas aux enfers"."

Amici Musica - Ferrara (Italy)

- "Coloratura soprano Gerda Findeisen brought a brilliant and lively element to the musical experience."

Antti Alanen, Film Diary blog

- "Ms. Findeisen handled the arias of the Queen of the Night more than competently."

The Chronicle Herald, Halifax (Stephen Pedersen)

- "Gerda Findeisen has a stunning coloratura voice. Her vocal technique is secure and the beauty of her extensive range is worthy of attention. She crafted a very believable and yet stylized Olympia in Hoffmann: She ruled the stage and her voice shimmered with unleashed resonant colour."

Kim Mattice-Wanat, Edmonton

- "In the role of Zerbinetta, Gerda Findeisen demonstrated her fabulous high range, her vocal beauty and profound stylistic understanding of German repertoire."

Agnes Grossmann, Vienna

- "For Zerbinetta, the obstacles to surmount are predominantly of virtuosity nature: fioritures and unusually high notes. Gerda Findeisen is doing a remarkable job."

Le Devoir, Montreal (Claude Gingras)