



## J'Nai Bridges, Mezzo-soprano

American mezzo-soprano J'Nai Bridges is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after talents of her generation. Her performances in the 2016-17 season include her debuts at San Francisco Opera and Bavarian State Opera as Bersi in *Andrea Chénier*, at Los Angeles Opera as Nefertiti in *Akhnaten*, and at Vancouver Opera as Sister Helen Prejean in *Dead Man Walking*; and featured soloist appearances with the Marilyn Horne Song Celebration at Carnegie Hall, with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in the *Farewell to Christoph Eschenbach* concert, with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and with the NDR Symphony Orchestra in its inaugural week in the Elbphilharmonie.

J'Nai's recent performances include the roles of Carmen in the world premiere of *Bel Canto* with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* with San Diego Opera, and the title role in *The Rape of Lucretia* with Wolf Trap Opera; as well as concert engagements with Yo-Yo Ma and members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; with the L.A. Philharmonic and Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel; with the NDR Symphony Orchestra in her first performances of Ravel's *Shéhérazade*; and with the Oregon Symphony.

J'Nai recently completed a three-year residency with the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, which included performances as Inez in *Il trovatore*, Vlasta in Mieczysław Weinberg's *The Passenger* under the baton of Sir Andrew Davis, and Flora in *La traviata*.

In 2015, J'Nai represented the United States at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Additionally, she was a recipient of a 2016 Richard Tucker Career grant, the first prize winner at the 2016 Francisco Vinjas International Competition, and the 2015 Gerda Lissner Competition. She was previously a young artist at the Glimmerglass Festival.

A native of Lakewood, Washington, J'Nai earned her Master of Music degree from Curtis Institute of Music and her Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance from the Manhattan School of Music.