

Margaret Kelly Cook

With a beautiful focused voice, superb comic timing, and thoughtful phrasing, Cook dominated every selection in which she appeared. She did not steal the show because most of the time she was the show..."
Gilbert and Sullivan Highlights
Jeff Johnson, The Post and Courier, Charleston

"As the gorgeous Countess Almaviva, Margaret Kelly Cook proved she, too, was a highly gifted young opera singer....She performed exquisitely."
(The Marriage of Figaro)
Sidney Palmer, The State, SC

"Margaret Kelly Cook made a ravishing widow Hanna, singing and acting with authority and charm. With her appearance and a voice that moved with consummate ease from command to tenderness, and an embracing, poignant account of the "Vilja-lied," she was a widow anyone could love."
(The Merry Widow)
William Starr, The State, S.C.

"Margaret Kelly Cook's high soprano had just the pristine angelic quality that Handel wanted...her singing was beautifully phrased and filled with emotion."
(Handel's Messiah)
Jeff Johnson, The Post and Courier, Charleston

"Rosalinda was beautifully played and exquisitely sung by soprano Margaret Kelly Cook."
(Die Fledermaus)
Gene Jones, The State, S.C.

"Margaret Kelly Cook is an ideal Pamina, stealing the show vocally with her refreshingly clean soprano; her placid stage presence was a plus in conveying the character's innocence."
(The Magic Flute)
Oliver Tims, The Times (London)

"...Margaret Kelly Cook stood out for her bright singing and the way in which she matured from a playful cub into a Vixen full of sensuality."
(The Cunning Little Vixen)
John Allison, The Times (London)
Opera Magazine

"Margaret Kelly Cook's Denise was stark and striking."
(The Knot Garden)
Andrew Porter, The Times (London)

"Margaret Kelly Cook gave a rounded portrayal of Nerea, deftly nipping round runs, shaping the melodies with meaningful ease."
(Deidamia)
David Blewitt, The Stage (London)

"...a fine technique, a bright soprano, and an obvious empathy with the [Baroque operatic style]."
(Siroe, Re di Persia)
Stephen Petitt, The Times (London)

"...Margaret Kelly Cook combined a sparky presence with a sweet soprano. She shaped the music's tenderer moments with a touching simplicity but also had the agility to whizz around the staves."
(Siroe, Re di Persia)
David Blewitt, The Stage (London)

Margaret Kelly Cook

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, soprano Margaret Kelly Cook began her musical journey singing in the church choir at four and studying violin and piano at age five. Although she began college as a psychology major, she ultimately graduated from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. Miss Cook returned to the United Kingdom in 1993 and completed the postgraduate opera course at the Royal College of Music in London earning a DipRCM.

Highlights of Ms. Cook's operatic performances include: the roles of Nerea in *Deidamia* and Emira in *Siroe*, both by Handel, with the London Handel Society; Denise in Tippett's *The Knot Garden*; Vixen in Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen*; Cleonilla in Vivaldi's *Ottone* for BBC Radio3; Susanna in *Susanna's Secret*; Pamina in *The Magic Flute*; Lucy in *The Telephone*; and Norina in *Don Pasquale* for the European Chamber Opera. In the United States, she has appeared with the South Carolina Opera and with the Palmetto Opera as Rosalinda in *Die Fledermaus*, Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow*, the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Josephine in *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

On the concert stage, Ms. Cook has appeared as a soloist throughout Europe and the United States, including the City of London Choir at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the English Mozart Players, the South London Philharmonic, Camerata Hispánica, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, the South Carolina Philharmonic. She has also appeared in concert and solo recitals in music festivals worldwide from Kansas City to Glasgow, including the Salzburg Festival, Buxton Opera Festival (U.K.), and Piccolo Spoleto Festival, U.S.A. She frequently performs with her husband, countertenor and conductor Ricard Bordas, with their group Barcino Baroque and the Bach Festival of Charleston of which Mr. Bordas is also founder and artistic director. (Future post pandemic performances TBA.

In addition to live classical performances, Ms. Cook has recorded commercial vocal tracks in both England and Spain. Her voice may be heard advertising everything from Fabergé perfume to *Bonita del Norte* (tuna from the northwest coast of Spain)! Classical recordings include David Maves' *Greek Songs* with guitarist Mark Regnier. Other varied credits include the New York theatre premiere of *No Way Out*, written by Jeff Johnson and produced by Tom O'Horgan (director of the Broadway Musical *Hair*).

In addition to being a seasoned performer, Margaret Kelly Cook is also a highly respected and sought after vocal instructor. Throughout her performing career she has maintained her private vocal studios while in New York, London, Barcelona, and currently in Charleston, South Carolina. She was appointed to be a graduate voice instructor at the Royal College of Music while earning her DipRCM, has served as an Adjunct Professor at the College of Charleston and has presented master classes both in the USA and Spain. In her individual vocal instruction Ms. Cook has made it her mission to help singers build a solid technical foundation with a clear understanding of healthy vocal production regardless of chosen musical style. While these styles can be vastly different, the fundamentals of healthy strong vocal production are the same. She has successfully mentored students who specialize in rap, opera, and everything in between including those who merely love to sing and want to bring more to their choral experience. Her classical singers have won vocal scholarships to Wake Forest University, New York University, and Oberlin College Conservatory of Music to name a few. They have also triumphed in various vocal competitions including the Operalia Competition in Beijing and the Metropolitan National Council Auditions, and have appeared with major opera companies including Glynebourn (U.K.), Lyons (France), Los Angeles Opera, the New York Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco, Chicago Lyric, and Covent Garden Opera. Her students who specialize in musical theatre have appeared both on and off Broadway and on tour in various productions such as *Spring Awakening* and *A Bronx Tale*. Ms. Cook has also taught singers who are pop, folk, and country artists. They have recorded or are currently working with some of the top recording producers in Nashville, Hollywood, and Charleston's own Grammy award winning TruPhonics Studio. (Specifics may be provided upon request with permission of the performers.)