

## Michal Aloni Mezzo-soprano I Actress I Director

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Michal Aloni is an Israeli-Canadian mezzo-soprano, actress, and stage director known for her warm, velvety tone, dramatic sensitivity, and imaginative, interdisciplinary approach to opera. Born in Tel Aviv, Michal began studying piano and voice at an early age. She discovered her passion for opera in her mid-twenties, beginning a journey that led her to live, work, and perform around the world before making Canada her home.

As a singer, Michal's repertoire ranges from Baroque to contemporary. Upcoming engagements include La Badessa and Principessa (cover) in *Suor Angelica* (Opera 5, Toronto Opera Festival) and a solo recital for the Canadian Opera Company RBA Concert Series. Notable roles include Sesto in *La clemenza di Tito* (COSA Canada); Ramiro in *La finta giardiniera* and Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* (UWOOpera, Western University); Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Barefoot Opera, UK); Diana in *La Calisto* (Ensemble OrQuesta, UK); Dorothée in *Cendrillon* (the International Vocal Artists Institute, Tel Aviv); Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* (Dublin Opera Studio); Moabite Woman in *Ruth* by R. Beckett (Arcady Ensemble, ON) and Giulietta in excerpts from *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (Idan Cohen-Dance Company, now Ne.Sans). She has also premiered contemporary works including *Lost in Plain Sight* (Takuto Fukuda) and *Songs of the Drowning* (Roozbeh Tabandeh) with Chants Libres at Opera'Actuel in Montreal, and recorded excerpts for PLAY DEAD, a touring contemporary circus production by People Watching. Michal has been a member of the Canadian Opera Company Chorus since 2022 and is always happy to return to perform at this incredible house.

As a director, Michal is particularly interested in exploring improvisational acting and movement techniques as tools for deeper understanding and interpretation of stories and characters in opera. Her upcoming projects include directing *The Medium* (Opera McGill) and *The Scholars* (Arcady Ensemble, New Works Showcase), and serving as assistant director for *The Rape of Lucretia* (Opera McGill), and the world premiere of *Parhelion* by Cecilia Livingston and Duncan McFarlane (Opera 5, Toronto Opera Festival). Past work includes directing scenes for the Essential Rossini Gala Concert (Opera McGill), the Contemporary Opera Ensemble Showcase (Opera McGill), and the annual opera Gala Concert (UWOOpera), as well as serving as assistant director on *Der Schauspieldirektor* (Opera McGill), The Mikado (UWOOpera), *The Turn of the Screw* (UWOOpera), and *Madame Butterfly* (Opéra de Montréal, in collaboration with the Association for Opera in Canada ). This winter, she will participate in an observership for the upcoming production of *Siegfried* (dir. Barrie Kosky) at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (UK).

Michal is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma in Stage Directing at McGill University under Professor Patrick Hansen. She is a 2026 Portfolio Artist Intern with Opera 5 (Company-in-Residence at the Canadian Opera Company) and a 2026 Jette Parker Artists Programme Observership recipient at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (UK). She holds a Master of Music in Literature and Performance from Western University and a Bachelor of Music from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Michal has trained with the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute; the International Vocal Artists Institute Tel Aviv; Opera Workshop for Advanced Singers in Saint Andrews; Montreal Improv; The Second City; and Talk Is Free Theatre's Multidisciplinary Two-Way Mentoring program. Prior to pursuing classical music, she studied jazz piano and voice at the Rimon School of Jazz in Israel.

Michal is grateful for the support of institutions and foundations that have nurtured her career, including the Canada Council for the Arts (Professional Development for Arts Professionals Grant, 2025); Opera America (Career Blueprints for Singers, 2024); the Buchholz Foundation; the Gross Foundation; the Jenny Panitch Beckow Memorial Fund (2018); the London Opera Guild; and the Gordon Jeffrey Endowment Award (2018). She was awarded 2nd place in the London Music Scholarship Foundation Competition (2019), 1st runner-up in the Maritsa Brookes Competition (2019), and was a semifinalist in the 8th Linus Lerner Competition.