

GERDA FINDEISEN

Coloratura Soprano

Cell. : 1 (514) 577-3274 // Res. : 1 (514) 636-8713
www.gerdafindeisen.com // gerdafindeisen@icloud.com

Member de l'Union des Artistes (QC, Canada) • Languages : English, French, German, Italian, Swiss-German • 180 cm, 66 kg, Blue eyes
Profile : Lanaudière Festival • Tournées Jeunesses Musicales du Canada • WOW-Opera-Aria (1st Prize)

BIOGRAPHY

Swiss-Canadian coloratura soprano Gerda Findeisen is distinguishing herself as a singer with “elegant stage presence”, “spectacular ornamentations”, as well as her “remarkable understanding of German repertoire”.

Recent engagements include the soprano-role in Thibaudeau’s silent film-score of **The Phantom of the Opera** [1925], which contains several Faust-excerpts (Marguerite), with the Orchestra del Teatro Comunale di Bologna (Italy), as well as in Montreal, of which Montreal’s 'Le Devoir' described her renditions as the “highlight of the performance” and “sublime moments”.

She made her debut at the prestigious **Festival Lanaudière** in 2015, and has been soloist with orchestras such as L'Octuor de France, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra under (Kent Nagano), the New Jersey Baroque Orchestra, and the Orchestre de Genève-Lancy.

She has toured Canada as the **Queen of the Night** (Zauberflöte, Mozart) with Jeunesses Musicales, and made her debut with the Opéra Théâtre de Rimouski in the personnage of **Joan Sutherland** in their Hommages aux Divines.

Mrs. Findeisen has performed operatic roles, including those of **Zerbinetta** (Ariadne auf Naxos, R. Strauss), **Ophélie** (Hamlet, Thomas), **Queen of the Night** (Zauberflöte, W. A. Mozart), **Olympia** (Contes d'Hoffmann, Offenbach), **Zempoella** (The Indian Queen, Purcell), as well as **Kristy** (House, McLeer). Equally at home on the oratorio-stage, she has sung the soprano-parts in works such as the **Nelson Mass** (Haydn) with the Kantorei St-Margarethen (Switzerland), the **Krönungs-** and **Spatzenmesse** (Mozart) at Montreal’s Notre-Dame Basilica, as well as the **Easter Hymn** (Mascagni) and **Laudate, Pueri, Dominum** (Händel) with the Harmonie Vocale de St-Hyacinthe. She also was a soloist in Thibaudeau's world-premiere of **Beauharnois, Cantate pour un Fleuve** in Beauharnois' 150th anniversary-celebrations.

Upcoming are recitals in Switzerland and Germany, as well as the soprano-part in **The Hunchback of Notre-Dame** (Thibaudeau) for the Society for Arts and Technology in Montreal.

Gerda Findeisen is a graduate of Musikhochschule Zürich (Opera Diploma) and University of Montreal (MMus, DESS), she has distinguished herself in competitions such as the ‘Classical Singer’ Competition, the Centre for Contemporary Opera, and the Crescendo International Arts Festival (Hungary). She is also the recipient of several large grants and bursaries, including from the Canada Council for the Arts.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Performances - OPERA

<i>Composer : Work - Role</i>	<i>Company, Orchestra, Place - Stage director, Conductor (p=piano)</i>	<i>Date</i>
ROSES (opera, operetta) - <i>Sophie, Lakmé, a.o.</i>	Opera Mobile, Weiningen (Swi.) - <i>Muth, Bosshard (p)</i>	2018
GOUNOD, THIBAudeau : FANTÔME - <i>Marguerite</i>	Octuor de France, Paris Baltard (Fr.) - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2017
GOUNOD, THIBAudeau : FANTÔME - <i>Marguerite</i>	Octuor de France, Ferrara Opera (It.) - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2016
GOUNOD, THIBAudeau : FANTÔME - <i>Marguerite</i>	Orchestre Conc. Cinémat, Palais Montcalm - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2016
GOUNOD, THIBAudeau : FANTÔME - <i>Marguerite</i>	Orch. Conc. Cinémat., Festival Lanaudière - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2016
THOMAS : HAMLET - <i>Ophélie</i>	Opera by Request, Montral & Toronto - <i>Shookoff (p)</i>	2014
LA FOLIE FOLLE - <i>Woman</i>	Tournée: France, Montreal - <i>Aster, Baril (p)</i>	2012
GOUNOD, THIBAudeau : FANTÔME - <i>Marguerite</i>	Orch. Conc. Cinémat. Montreal, Salle WP - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2011
GOUNOD, THIBAudeau : FANTÔME - <i>Marguerite</i>	Orchestra Teatro Bologna (It.) - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2011
HOMMAGES AUX DIVINES : <i>Olympia, Morgana, +</i>	Opera Theatre of Rimouski - <i>Robin, McLean (p)</i>	2010
PURCELL : THE INDIAN QUEEN - <i>Zempoella</i>	Baroque Orchestra New Jersey (USA) - <i>Diamond, Butts</i>	2010
LA FOLIE FOLLE - <i>Femme</i>	Université de Montreal - <i>Racine, Baril (p)</i>	2010
MCLEER : HOUSE - <i>Kristy</i>	Remarkable Theatre Brigade NYC (USA) - <i>Harte, McLeer (p)</i>	2009
GALA - <i>Lucia, Olympia, Cunegonde, Sophie, a.o.</i>	Conseil d'Arts St-Léon-Le-Grand - <i>Lazin, Nigrim (p)</i>	2008,10
ADAMS : NIXON IN CHINA (sél.) - <i>Chiang Ch'ing</i>	Opera Studio University of Montreal - <i>Pedrotti, Wheeler (p)</i>	2007
MOZART : ZAUBERFLÖTE - <i>Königin der Nacht</i>	Jeunesses Musicales du Canada - <i>Racine, Pelletier (p)</i>	2006
OFFENBACH : CONTES D'HOFFMANN - <i>Olympia</i>	Opera Nuova, Edmonton (Ca.) - <i>Gately, Dala</i>	2006
VERDI, MOZART : GALA - <i>Violetta, 3. Dame</i>	Zempléni Festival (Hu.) - <i>Toth, Dallos (p)</i>	2004
STRAUSS : ARIADNE AUF NAXOS - <i>Zerbinetta</i>	Orford Arts Centre (Ca.) - <i>Hollweg, Grossmann</i>	

Performances - CONCERT

THIBAudeau : HUNTCHBACK of NOTRE-DAME [1923]	SAT Montréal - <i>Thibaudeau (p)</i>	2019
WACH AUF, MEIN ABENDLAND (voice, dance)	Sandstø Productions, Tournée (Swi.) - <i>A capella</i>	2019
RECITAL : VON TRÄUMEN (opera, Lieder)	Tournée : Maison Glarner, Magdeburg, Brasov - <i>Nigrim (p)</i>	2019
RECITAL : ODE TO SPRING (Rumanian & Fr. music)	Series Tradicious, Spadina Theatre Toronto - <i>Nigrim (p)</i>	2017
RECITAL : COULEURS (mélodies de Debussy)	Series Oasis Musicale, Montréal - <i>Nigrim (p)</i>	2016
THIBAudeau : HUNTCHBACK of NOTRE-DAME [1923]	Filmposium-Festival, Zürich (Swi.), Trio - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2016
THIBAudeau : CANTATE POUR UN FLEUVE	Orch. Concerts Cinémato., Beauharnois - <i>Thibaudeau</i>	2013
SAINT-SAËNS : ORATORIO DE NOËL	Harmonie Vocale & Orch. St-Hyacinthe - <i>Copland</i>	2012
MASCAGNI : EASTER HYMN, DVOŘÁK : TE DEUM	Harmonie Vocale & Orch. St-Hyacinthe - <i>Copland</i>	2012
MOZART : KRÖNUNGSMESSE, SPATZENMESSE	Basilique Notre-Dame Montréal - <i>Baillargeon/ Grandmaison (o)</i>	2011,12
HÄNDEL : LAUDATE, PUERI, DOMINUM	Harmonie Vocale & Orch. St-Hyacinthe - <i>Copland</i>	2011
RECITAL : ARIEN-ABEND (oratorio, opera)	Séries Maison Glarner (Swi.) - <i>Lüthy (p)</i>	2011
DIVERS RECITALS (chamber music)	Les Chambristes Stupéfiants UdM - <i>Vaillancourt</i>	2006-9
ALLEGRI : MISERE MEI DEUS	Église Saint-Viateur d'Outremont - <i>Beauséjour</i>	2009
VIVALDI : VENGO A VOI, RV 682	Baroque Ensemble University of Montreal - <i>Little</i>	2009
BACH : Bb-MINOR MASS	Cantabile Orch. & Chorale Montreal - <i>Willsher</i>	2008
SCHÜTZ : JAUCHZET DEM HERREN	Notre-Dame Basilica Montréal - <i>Baillargeon/ Grandmaison (o)</i>	2007
BACH : CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN	Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Church, Montreal - <i>Martin (o)</i>	2006
VIVALDI : IN FURORE, RV 626	St. Andrew + St. Paul Church, Montreal - <i>Jobin-Bevans</i>	
SCHUBERT : G-MAJOR MASS	St. Andrew + St. Paul Church, Montreal - <i>Wheatcroft/ Ward (o)</i>	
HÄNDEL : DIXIT DOMINUS, MESSIAH	St. Andrew + St. Paul Church, Montreal - <i>Wheatcroft/ Ward (o)</i>	

Prizes, Scholarships

- **1st Prize** : Concours International Crescendo (Ho.), WOW Aria-Contest (E.-U.) **2004,8**
- **Laureate** : Contemporary Opera Centre NYC (E.-U.), Classical Singer-Competition (E.-U.) **2004-8**
- **Bursaries, Grants** : Canada Council for the Arts, Opera Nuova, Orford Arts Centre, Oberlin, UdM B. Gadbois **2001-7**

Collaboration, Formation

- **Conductors** : Butts, Copland, Dala, de Figueiroa, Grossmann, Näf, Nagano, Ridell, Thibaudeau
- **Festivals** : Chants Libres, Bologna-F., Crescendo, Lanaudière, Oberlin, Opera Nuova, Orford Arts C., Zempleni F., Zürich Filmfestival
- **Stage Directors** : Aster, Gately, Gauthier, Heer, Hollweg, Markun, Nieuwenhuis, Racine, Rasky, Schellen, Toth
- **Coachings** : Baril, Dallos, Dechmann, Goldhamer, Grabovsky, Hamilton, McMahon, Nigrim, Shrut, Suits, Torzs, Weiman
- **Masterclasses** : Castel, Elkus, Fanning, Fortin, Hamilto, Klaviter, Kután, Margison, Pantea, Perry
- **DESS, MMUS** : Université de Montréal (Savoie), Musikhochschule Bâle & Zürich (Thorner-Mengedoht, Widmer)

REPERTOIRE

Opera

ADAMS, JOHN	NIXON IN CHINA - <i>Chiang-Ch'ing</i>
ARGENTO, D.	POSTCARD F. MOROCCO - <i>Mirror-Lady (= Coloratura)</i>
BELLINI	I PURITANI - <i>Elvira</i>
BERNSTEIN	CANDIDE - <i>Cunegonde</i>
BIZET	JOLIE FILLE DE PERTH - <i>Catherine</i>
CAVALLI	LA CALISTO - <i>2da Furia</i>
DONIZETTI	LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR - <i>Lucia</i>
GOUNOD	FAUST - <i>Marguerite</i>
HANDEL	ALCINA - <i>Alcina</i>
	GIULIO CESARE - <i>Cleopatra</i>
HENZE	THE ENGLISH CAT - <i>Minette</i>
MCLEER, C.	HOUSE - <i>Kristy</i>
MEYERBEER, G.	HUGUENOTS - <i>Marguerite</i>
MONTEVERDI	L'INCORONATIONE DI POPPEA - <i>Amore</i>
MOZART	ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL - <i>Konstanze</i>
	ZAUBERFLÖTE - <i>Königin der Nacht</i>
	ZAUBERFLÖTE - 1. <i>Dame</i>
	ZAUBERFLÖTE - 2. <i>Knabe</i>
OFFENBACH	LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN - <i>Olympia</i>
PURCELL	DIDO & AENEAS - <i>2nd Witch</i>
	DIDO & AENEAS - <i>2nd Woman</i>
	THE INDIAN QUEEN - <i>Zempoella</i>
STRAUSS, R.	ARIADNE AUF NAXOS - <i>Zerbinetta</i>
THOMAS, A.	HAMLET - <i>Ophélie</i>
VERDI	TRAVIATA - <i>Violetta</i>

Concert, Oratorio

AIBLINGER	MASS IN A-MAJOR
ALLEGRI, G.	"MISERERE MEI, DEUS"
BACH	CANTATA BWV 4 : "CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN"
	CANTATA BWV 51 : "JAUCHZET GOTT"
	CANTATA BWV 57 : "ICH ENDE BEHENDE"
	CANTATA BWV 202
	B-MINOR MASS
	ST. MATTHEW PASSION
	ST. JOHN PASSION
BRITTEN	MISSA BREVIS
CARISSIMI	"JUDICIUM EXTREMUM"
	MAGNIFICAT
CHARPENTIER	TE DEUM
	MESSE DE MINUIT
DVORAK	TE DEUM
GABRIELI	"JUBILATE DEO OMNIS TERRA" - <i>Motet</i>
	"SURREXIT CHRISTUS"
HANDEL	THE MESSIAH
	DIXIT DOMINUS
HAYDN, JOSEPH	NELSON MASS (MISSA IN ANGUSTIIS)
	STABAT MATER
	MISSA BREVIS IN Bb-MAJOR
HAYDN, MICHAEL	MISSA ST. JOHANNIS DE DEO
	KLEINE ORGELSOLOMESSE
	VESPER IN F-MAJOR
HOLMAN, DEREK	JEZEBEL - <i>Oratorio</i>

LISZT	VIA CRUCIS
MASCAGNI	AVE MARIA
MENDELSSOHN	REGINA COELI (<i>from 'Cavalleria Rusticana'</i>)
MCINTYRE, D. L.	PSALM 55;2-5: "HÖR MEIN BITTEN, HERR"
MOZART	FROM THE PSALMS - <i>Song cycle</i>
	SPATZENMESSE, <i>KV. 220</i>
	C-MAJOR MASS ('ORGELSOLOMESSE'), <i>KV. 259</i>
	EXSULTATE, JUBILATE, <i>KV. 265</i>
	VESPER IN C-MAJOR, <i>KV. 321</i>
	C-MAJOR MASS, <i>KV. 427</i>
PACHELBEL	MAGNIFICAT
PERGOLESI	STABAT MATER
RHEINBERGER	A-MAJOR MASS
	Bb-MINOR MASS
SAINT-SAENS	CHRISTMAS ORATORIO
ROSSINI	HYMN : LA CARITÀ
	PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE
SAINT-SAËNS	AVE MARIA
SCHUBERT, F.	HIRTENMESSE, <i>Op. 13</i>
	G-MAJOR MASS, <i>DV 167</i>
SCHUBERT, M.	A-MAJOR MASS, <i>DV #167</i>
SCHÜTZ	PSALM 100: "JAUCHZET DEM HERREN" - <i>Motet</i>
	PSALM 121 - <i>Motet</i>
	JUBILATE DEO - <i>Motet</i>
THIBAudeau	BEAUHARNOIS: CANTATE POUR UN FLEUVE - <i>Cantata</i>
	THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE-DAME - <i>Score for silent film</i>
	THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA - <i>Score for silent film</i>
VIVALDI	IN FURORE - <i>Motet</i>

Mélodies, Lieder, Songs & Chamber music

ARGENTO, DOMINIK	TO BE SUNG UPON THE WATER - <i>Cycle for soprano, clarinet + piano</i>
BÉDARD, DENIS	3 MÉLODIES SUR DES POÈMES DE SAINT-DENYS GARNEAU - <i>Cycle</i>
BEYDTS, LOUIS	CHANSONS POUR LES OISEAUX - <i>Cycle</i>
BRAHMS	LIEDER, <i>Op. 46, 48, 49, 59, 63, 90, 107</i>
CARISSIMI	SERENATA I NAVIGANTI
DEBUSSY	MÉLODIES, <i>Banville, Bourget, Mallarmé, e.a.</i>
DVORAK	MÄHRISCHE DUETTE, <i>Op. 13</i>
ECCLES, JOHN	MAD SONGS, <i>Selection</i>
HANDEL	9 AIRS ALLEMANDS
	DUOS POUR 2 SOPRANOS
IBERT, JACQUES	2 STÈLES ORIENTÉES - <i>Duo for soprano + flute</i>
JANÁČEK	KINDERREIME, <i>Selection</i>
KURTÁG, G.	KAFKA FRAGMENTE, <i>Selection</i>
MARTIN, FRANK	TROIS CHANTS DE NOEL - <i>Cycle for soprano, flute + piano</i>
MEYERBEER, G.	HIRTENLIED - <i>Trio for soprano, clarinet + piano</i>
REA, JOHN	OFFENES LIED - <i>Duo for two sopranos, clarinet + basse clarinet</i>
ROUSSEL	2 DUOS POUR SOPRANO ET FLÛTE
SCHÖNBERG	DAS BUCH DER HÄNGENDEN GÄRTEN, <i>Selection</i>
SCHUBERT	SONGS, <i>Op. 5, 26, 52, 59, 62, 72, 88, 89, 98</i>
	LE PÂTRE SUR LE ROCHER - <i>Trio pour soprano, clarinet + piano</i>
SCHUMANN	LIEDER, <i>Op. 25, 36, 42, 83, 104</i>
STRAUSS	LIEDER, <i>Op. 68 + 69</i>
VILLA-LOBOS	BACCHIANAS BRASILEIRAS NO. 5
VIVALDI	VENGO A VOI, <i>RV 682 - Motet</i>

P R E S S

- **‘Phantom of the Opera’, Montreal :**
« The clou of the spectacle ; the coloratura soprano Gerda Findeisen [...] »
Le Devoir – August 8, 2011

- **‘Phantom of the Opera’, Bologna (Italy) :**
« Coloratura soprano Gerda Findeisen brought a brilliant and lively element to the musical experience [...]. »
Antti Alanen, Film Diary blog – July 1, 2011

- **‘Magic Flute’, Tournée with Jeunesses Musicales du Canada :**
« Ms. Findeisen handled the arias of the Queen of the Night more than competently [...] »
Stephen Pedersen, The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, November 14, 2006

- **‘Contes d’Hoffmann’, Olympia - Opera Nuova Edmonton :**
« Gerda Findeisen has a stunning coloratura voice. Her vocal technique is secure and the beauty of her extensive range is worthy of attention. Gerda is a very intelligent singer, modelling discipline and professionalism. She approaches character development with creativity and she crafted a very believable and yet stylized Olympia in Hoffmann. The end result was outstanding, Gerda ruled the stage and her voice shimmered with unleashed resonant color. »
Kim Mattice-Wanat, Director of Opera Nuova, Edmonton, October 17, 2007

- **‘Ariadne auf Naxos’, Orford Arts Centre :**
« [...] Gerda Findeisen was impressive at the audition in the role of Zerbinetta, but even more stunning at the performance of the opera, demonstrating her fabulous high range, her vocal beauty and stylistic knowledge of German repertoire. I strongly believe in her artistic future [...]. »
Agnes Grossmann, Conductor, Artistic Director of the Orford Arts Centre, February 12, 2004

- **‘Ariadne auf Naxos’, Centre d’Arts Orford :**
« For Zerbinetta, the obstacles to surmount are predominantly of virtuosity nature: fiorituras and unusually high notes. Gerda Findeisen is doing a remarkable job. »
Claude Gingras, Le Devoir, Montreal, July 20, 2001