



T: (212) 969-1797 | info@uiatalent.com
850 7th Ave., Suite 1003
New York, NY 10019

NYC DCWP License N° 2082447

www.uiatalent.com

REHANNA THELWELL

MEZZO-SOPRANO

Mezzo-soprano Rehanna Thelwell is quickly becoming known for her magnetic performances and expressive vocal power in a wide variety of repertoire. After completing the Washington National Opera Cafritz Young Artist program, she made a notable mainstage début in the title role of **Carmen** at The Kennedy Center, with Parterre Box describing her performance as “stupendous.”



In the upcoming season, Ms. Thelwell will return to several leading opera companies across the country, starting off at Detroit Opera for her portrayal of Aunt Lou in **Highway 1, USA**, then Opera Philadelphia to perform in the world premiere of Tony Award-winning playwright Michael R. Jackson’s **Complications in Sue**, and rounding the season out at Atlanta Opera to sing Marcellina in their production of **Le nozze di Figaro**. Future seasons will bring exciting house débuts across the globe for Ms. Thelwell including a highly anticipated production at Le Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Belgium.

Last season, Ms. Thelwell returned to Opera Philadelphia to sing Angela Rose in the American premiere of **The Listeners**, a piece she previously workshopped with Missy Mazzoli and Royce Vavrek. She also performed as Mother Goose at Opera Omaha in **The Rake’s Progress**, made her début with Portland Opera as Quickly in Verdi’s **Falstaff**, and joined Nashville Opera and New Orleans Opera as Kendra in **The Cook Off!**, working alongside the musical duo of Shawn E. Okpebholo and Mark Campbell. Moreover, Ms. Thelwell recently performed at San Francisco Opera as Katie Ellen/Caller and covered Fatima in **Omar**, made her début with Atlanta Opera as Hippolyta in **A Midsummer Night’s Dream**, joined Detroit Opera as the Forester’s Wife/Owl in **The Cunning Little Vixen**, and appeared as Julia in **Two Corners** at Finger Lakes Opera by composer B.E. Boykin and librettist Jarrod Lee.

Other recent engagements include Ms. Thelwell’s début at Dutch National Opera as Girlfriend/Congregant 3 in Jeanine Tesori and Tazewell Thompson’s **Blue**, roles she later reprised at Washington National Opera. She has also performed Dinah/Anna I in Madison Opera’s double-bill of **Trouble in Tahiti/The Seven Deadly Sins**, joined South Florida Symphony for Bruckner’s **Te Deum**, and appeared with Bangor Symphony in **Beethoven’s 9th Symphony**. Additional credits include her début with The Washington Chorus for Undine Smith Moore’s **Scenes from the Life of a Martyr**, and a reprise of this work with Exigence Ensemble.

Ms. Thelwell’s notable performances extend to her portrayal of Ruby/Sinner Woman in **Fire Shut Up in My Bones** at Lyric Opera of Chicago, a role she originated with Opera Theatre St. Louis, for which Opera News praised her as a “standout” among the supporting cast, and her début with Opera Philadelphia as Jocasta in Stravinsky’s **Oedipus Rex**. At Washington National Opera, she performed Third Lady in **The Magic Flute** and Conchetta in the American Opera Initiative’s **Night Trip**. Additional engagements include joining the National Symphony Orchestra as the Narrator in **Portrait of a Queen**, recording **Blue** with Washington National Opera, her mainstage début with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis as Aunt Lou in **Highway 1, U.S.A.**,



and Opera in the Park with Madison Opera. Ms. Thelwell has also been involved in the workshop for ***Iphigenia*** with Esperanza Spalding.

Other recent engagements include her return to Opera Theatre of Saint Louis in as Giovanna in ***Rigoletto*** and Ruby in ***Fire Shut Up in My Bones*** and her Carnegie Hall début with the Exigence Vocal Ensemble led by Dr. Eugene Rogers. Thelwell had the immense pleasure of performing alongside Talise Trevigne and Morris Robinson in The University Musical Society's ***Porgy and Bess*** as Maria. She joined the Miami Music Festival Wagner Institute for a second time in their production of the ***Götterdämmerung*** prologue as the 2nd Norn. In her first year with the Wagner Institute, Thelwell had the privilege of sharing the stage with soprano Christine Goerke and bass-baritone Alan Held for their rendition of "The Ride of the Valkyries." She was also invited to sing with the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra for their performance of Prokofiev's ***Alexander Nevsky*** in Anchorage, Alaska and returned to perform a concert series through the Kenai Musical Society.

Thelwell began her studies in 2009 at Northern Arizona University under the tutelage of Deborah Raymond. In 2014, she was accepted into the graduate program at the University of Michigan, where she joined the studio of Nadine Washington, returning in 2016 for her specialist degree.

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