

Emily Hamper
Vocal Coach & Accompanist

Currently based in Toronto, Emily Hamper has led an active international career for over fifteen years. Noted for her musical sensitivity and attention to detail, she is in high demand as a coach and collaborative pianist by many of Canada's most prominent singers. As well as preparing artists for professional engagements worldwide, she has accompanied well over 1000 auditions in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, and New York. In recital she has partnered such singers as Phillip Addis, Nancy Argenta, Ingrid Attrot, John Tessier, and Taras Kulish for numerous presenters, including CBC Toronto's Glenn Gould Studio for the *Music Around Us* series, the San Francisco Opera, Calgary Opera, and both the Indian River and Orford Festivals. She has also performed in Prague, Kosice (Slovakia), and Washington DC. In 2009 she was invited back to the Green Mountain Opera Festival as rehearsal pianist, coach and harpsichordist for *Le Nozze di Figaro* under Maestro Jacques Lacombe. She also returned for a third season as vocal coach and pianist for the Toronto Summer Music Festival, and partnered Phillip Addis in a recital tour of Canada's Maritimes. In the spring of 2010, Emily will again join Opera Atelier as coach and répétitrice for their new production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Her recital and concert collaborations have been broadcast on CBC Radio, Radio-Canada, Vermont Public Radio, and Classical 96.3 FM in Toronto. Additional credits include assisting in the production of several Canadian and world premieres of operas, including the Canadian premiere of Britten's *Paul Bunyan*.

Emily was born in Vancouver B.C. She completed her undergraduate musical training at UBC where she studied piano with Robert Rogers. A passion for vocal and chamber music led to specialised studies in these areas with Rena Sharon and Jane Coop. During this time she made her solo début in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra while also establishing herself as a gifted accompanist. An increased interest in opera led her to the Opera Division at the University of Toronto, where she apprenticed under James Fraser Craig and Stephen Ralls. She was hired as a member of the music staff immediately upon graduation.

In a teaching capacity, Ms. Hamper has inspired many students at numerous institutions. Most recently, she gave masterclasses for singers at Dalhousie and Acadia universities. As Music Director for the opera courses at Wilfrid Laurier University, in 2005, she led two sold-out performances of opera excerpts and was invited to return for the following year. Also in 2006, she made her conducting debut as Music Director for an all-Mozart programme at the Banff Centre, where she additionally supervised several performances of vocal chamber music. After five years as a staff coach at the University of Toronto, she spent several years coaching at Montreal Opera's Atelier Lyrique, L'Université de Montréal, and the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute under the leadership of Joan Dornemann. She has performed in masterclasses given by such notable performers as

Russell Braun, Michael Schade, Cesar Ulloa, Edith Wiens, Martin Isepp, Martin Katz, and the late Theodore Uppmann.

Ms. Hamper is an alumna of the prestigious Merola Opera Program of the San Francisco Opera, and in 2002 received a Merola Career Grant to train in Munich. During her four years in Montreal she coached and performed with L'Opéra de Montréal and the I Musici Chamber Orchestra. She has worked with many fine conductors including Raffi Armenian, Mario Bernardi, Agnes Grossmann, Bernard Labadie, Lorraine Vaillancourt, Timothy Vernon, Jean-Marie Zeitouni, and the late Georg Tintner.

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