

BIOGRAPHY OF EMILY HAMPER

Currently based in Stratford, Ontario, vocal coach and collaborative pianist 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 by many of Canada's most prominent singers. Ms. Hamper frequently partners her husband, baritone Phillip Addis, in recital. This season they perform in Toronto and Victoria, and look forward to their appearance in Paris in 2014. In September 2012, Ms. Hamper returned to Wilfrid Laurier University for the third time as music director for the Opera Excerpts performances. As well as preparing singers for worldwide professional engagements, she has accompanied well over 1000 auditions in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, and New York. She has accompanied recitals for numerous presenters, including Roy Thomson Hall's *Canadian Voices* series, the San Francisco Opera, Calgary Opera, the Free Concert Series at the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre, and the Indian River and Orford Festivals. She has also performed in Prague, Kosice (Slovakia), and Washington DC. Her recital and concert collaborations have been broadcast on CBC Radio, Radio-Canada, Vermont Public Radio, and Classical 96.3 FM in Toronto. In May 2011, Emily was awarded the "Best Collaborative Pianist" prize at the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition in Brandon, Manitoba, following which she accompanied first prize winner Erica Iris Huang on the national winner's tour.

Recent operatic engagements include rehearsal pianist for Calgary Opera's productions of *Moby Dick* and *La bohème*. Other companies for whom she has worked in this capacity include Opera Atelier, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Green Mountain Opera Festival, and L'Opéra de Montréal. She has served as assistant conductor with Opera Atelier and the Banff Centre, where she also made her conducting debut in an all-Mozart programme of opera excerpts. Additional credits include involvement in several Canadian and world premieres of operas, most notably the Canadian premiere of Britten's *Paul Bunyan*. In a teaching capacity, Ms. Hamper has inspired many students at numerous institutions. She co-taught the "Best Voice Forward" audition workshop with Kimberly Barber at Wilfrid Laurier University, and has given masterclasses at Mount Allison, Dalhousie and Acadia universities. She was a staff coach at the University of Toronto from 1997 - 2002, and then spent several years in Montreal coaching at Montreal Opera's Atelier Lyrique, L'Université de Montréal, and the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute under the leadership of Joan Dornemann.

Emily was born in Vancouver B.C. She completed her undergraduate musical training at UBC where she studied piano with the late 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 Stephen Ralls and the late W. James Craig. She was hired as a member of the music staff immediately upon graduation. Emily is an alumna of the prestigious Merola Opera Program in San Francisco: in 2002 she was awarded a Merola Career Grant for private studies in Munich Germany.

November, 2012