

Soprano Elleka Okerstrom has recently moved to the Kansas City area having completed a Performance Diploma in Voice at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. She recently sang with the chorus of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City in their production of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and was slated to perform in Moravec's *The Shining*. Recent roles include Morgana in Handel's *Alcina* and Mrs. Webb in Ned Rorem's *Our Town*. Elleka is a graduate of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where she received her Master of Music in Voice Performance. During her time at Indiana she performed in several productions including *Peter Grimes*, *Florencia en el Amazonas*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Dead Man Walking*. Her scene work from Indiana includes Konstanze in Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and Norina in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. Elleka was a Cum Laude graduate of DePauw University where she received her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. While at DePauw she sang several principle roles including Violante in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*. While at DePauw she was also able to work with several living composers including John Corgliano, Libby Larsen, and Adam Guettel.

In addition to operatic performances Elleka has sung with several professional choral ensembles including the Dallas Chamber Choir and the Highland Park Chorale. She was a soloist in the Highland Park Chorale's performance of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and is featured on the Dallas Chamber Choir's recent recording, *Love Manifested*, recorded at the Moody Performance Hall.

Elleka has also been involved with major music entrepreneurship programs at DePauw University and Indiana University, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Musician Initiative (21CM) and Project Jumpstart respectively. Her position at DePauw allowed her to work closely with noted musicians and ensembles such as Yo Yo Ma, the Silkroad Ensemble, Voces8, The King's Singers, Roomful of Teeth, and Israeli folkband, Baladino.