

# Isabel Leonard Master Class

*Featuring students from the  
Ellen and James S. Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts  
and Collaborative Piano Department*

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JULES MASSENET  
(1842-1912)

“Il est doux, il est bon”  
from *Hérodiade*

**Jasmin Ward, Soprano (MM '25)**  
**Giancarlo Llerena, Piano (MM '26)**

MASSENET

“Werther! Qui m'aurait dit ... Ces lettres!”  
from *Werther*

**Anna Kelly, Mezzo-Soprano (Artist Diploma '26)**  
**Francesco Barfoed, Piano (DMA '27)**

GIOACHINO ROSSINI  
(1792-1868)

“Cruda sorte! Amor tiranno!”  
from *L'italiana in Algeri*

**Naomi Steele, Mezzo-Soprano (MM '25)**  
**Michał Skowronek, Piano (Graduate Diploma '25)**

GAETANO DONIZETTI  
(1797-1848)

“Era desso il figlio mio”  
from *Lucrezia Borgia*

**Natasha Isabella Gesto, Soprano (MM '25)**  
**Michele Wong, Piano (DMA '28)**



Three-time Grammy-winning artist Isabel Leonard (BM '04, MM '06, voice) has established herself as one of the most in-demand performers as a star on the world's leading stages and screens. This season sees her much anticipated return to Opéra National de Paris as Rosina in Damiano Michieletto's production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, conducted by Diego Matheuz, and her house debut with Gran Teatre del Liceu as Anita in a concert performance of *West Side Story*, conducted by Gustavo Dudamel. Leonard also returns to Houston Grand Opera to sing Angelina in Joan Font's production of *Cenerentola* and for her directorial debut leading the HGO Family Day production of *Cinderella* as well as her return to the Metropolitan Opera as Rosina in Bartlett Sher's celebrated production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. Orchestral appearances include performances of *Les Nuits d'été* with Kevin John Edusei conducting the New York Philharmonic, and Mahler's *Resurrection* Symphony conducted by music director Courtney Lewis. Leonard also continues her collaboration with guitarist Pablo Sáinz Villegas, performing their all-Spanish program at the Gallo Center for the Performing Arts, and appears in recital with Matinee Musicale in Cincinnati, Teatro de la Ciudad in Monterrey, Mexico, Sala Sao Paulo, and Teatro Municipal de Río de Janeiro.

Highlights of Leonard's career include the title roles in *Carmen*, *La Périchole*, *Cendrillon*, *Marnie*, and *Der Rosenkavalier* as well as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Angelina in *La Cenerentola*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Zerlina and Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Sesto in *La clemenza di Tito*, Charlotte in *Werther*, Blanche de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Costanza in *Griselda*, Musetta in *La bohème*, Der Komponist in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Sesto in *Giulio Cesare*, Maria in *West Side Story*, and Marguerite in Berlioz's *La damnation de Faust*.

Leonard regularly appears on the stages of the world's leading opera stages including the Metropolitan Opera, Opéra National de Paris, Wiener Staatsoper, Los Angeles Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, San Francisco Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Aix-en-Provence Festival, Salzburg Festspiele, and Teatro Comunale di Bologna. She regularly enjoys collaboration with conductors including Valery Gergiev, Seiji Ozawa, Antonio Pappano, Charles Dutoit, Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Yannick Nézet-Seguin, Franz Welser-Möst, Plácido Domingo, Edward Gardner, James Levine, Edo de Waart, James Conlon, Marin Alsop, Andrew Davis, Michele Mariotti, Harry Bicket, Andris Nelsons, and Michael Tilson Thomas. Orchestral highlights include appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Orquestra Acadêmica Mozarteum Brasileiro in São Paulo and at Teatro Positivo in Curitiba, Brazil, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic, and San Francisco Symphony. She also enjoys a regular collaboration with Andrea Bocelli, performing with him at arenas around the world.

Television and film credits include an appearance in the Rebecca Miller film *She Came to Me*, starring Anne Hathaway and Marisa Tomei, an appearance in the Leonard Bernstein biopic *Maestro*, directed by Bradley Cooper, being featured on the season 43 finale of *Sesame Street* in Murray Monster's People in Your Neighborhood segment, scenes from Terrence McNally's *Master Class* directed by Nicole Alexander, and as a regular host of the Metropolitan Opera's Live in HD broadcasts.

Leonard was named recipient of the Richard Tucker Award and has won Grammy Awards for Michael Tilson Thomas' *From the Diary of Anne Frank* on SFS Media, Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* on Decca, and Adès' *The Tempest* from the Metropolitan Opera on Deutsche Grammophon. Leonard resides in New York and sits on the Board of Trustees at Carnegie Hall and on the Artistic Advisory Board of ArtSmart.