

Ashley Wheat

AGMA, EMC

soprano

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Opera

<i>Dead Man Walking</i>	Paralegal	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	March 2017
<i>A Wedding</i>	Victoria Corelli	Aspen Opera Theatre	July 2016
<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Giannetta	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	March 2016
<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Pamina	UMKC Conservatory	November 2015
<i>Rusalka</i>	First Wood Sprite	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	November 2015
<i>L'enfant prodigue</i>	Lia	Kansas City Opera Institute	June 2015
<i>Little Women</i>	Beth	UMKC Conservatory	March 2015
<i>Così fan Tutte</i>	Fiordiligi	UMKC Conservatory	November 2014
<i>La Traviata</i>	Annina	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	September 2014
<i>I Pagliacci</i>	Nedda	Heartland Opera Theatre	October 2013
<i>Lyric Opera Express (Outreach)</i>	Multiple Roles	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	2011 – 2013
<i>La Bohème</i>	Musetta	Winter Opera St. Louis, SIFest	March 2012, June 2012

Concert/ Commercial/ Musical Theatre

Hallmark Ornament Commercial	Daughter	Non-Union (Hallmark)	March 2017
Olathe Health Commercial	Mom	Non-Union (Bark Productions)	February 2017
<i>Musical Monday (Tuesday Too!)</i>	Principal Artist	Musical Theatre Heritage	February & November 2016
Hallmark Plush Doll Commercial	Mom	Non-Union (Hallmark)	January 2016
<i>Wouldn't It Be Lovely</i>	Principal Artist	Musical Theatre Heritage	August 2015
<i>Climb Every Mountain</i>	Principal Artist	Chestnut Fine Arts Center	March-May 2014
<i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Soprano	Kansas City Repertory Theater	Nov/Dec 2012 - 2013
Chicago Chamber Orchestra	Susanna	Southern Illinois Music Festival	June 2012

Education

Apprentice Artist	Lyric Opera of Kansas City & University of Missouri - Kansas City	2014 - 2016
New Horizon Fellow	Aspen Opera Theatre Center	2005 – 2006, 2016
Bachelor of Music	University of Southern California	2002 - 2006

Teachers: Vinson Cole (current), Julianna Rambaldi, Elizabeth Hynes, Edie Delegans **Coaches:** Sophia Zey, Richard Williams, Natalia Rivera, Bill Billingham, Bettie Buccheri, Tim Long, Cara Chowning, David Wilkinson **Conductors:** Scott Terell, Christopher Allen, Ward Holmquist, John Baril **Directors:** Garnett Bruce, Fenlon Lamb, Ed Berkeley, Mary Duncan, James Robinson, David Gately

Special Skills

Puppetry (cabaret marionettes, rod, and hand puppets)

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In 2012, Ashley made her professional debut in the role of Musetta in *La Bohème* with Winter Opera St. Louis. She later reprised the role that same summer at the Southern Illinois Music Festival. While at the festival, Wheat also made her debut with the Chicago Chamber Orchestra, singing Susanna. Immediately following the festival, Ashley traveled with StoneLion Puppet Theatre, where she is a core company puppeteer, to perform *The Toy Box* with cabaret marionettes at the Summer Surprises International Puppet Festival in Dubai, U.A.E.

In Kansas City, Ashley has performed in the Musical Theater Heritage productions of *Sweeney Todd*, *Hello Dolly*, and most recently, as a principal artist in *Wouldn't It Be Lovely*, a Lerner and Loewe musical revue. With the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, in 2012 and 2013, Ashley performed the role of Soprano in *A Christmas Carol*. Wheat also made her debut with The Chestnut Fine Arts Theater in 2014, performing as a principal artist in *Climb Every Mountain*, a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical revue.

In 2013, Ashley debuted as Nedda in *I Pagliacci* with Heartland Opera Theatre. Currently in the second year of her apprenticeship with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Ashley made her mainstage principle artist debut at the Lyric as Annina in *La Traviata* in the fall of 2014 and at University of Missouri - Kansas City as Fiordiligi in *Così fan Tutte*. Ashley also sang Beth in *Little Women* at the Conservatory in March 2015.

The end of 2015 brought Ashley's debut as the First Wood Sprite in *Rusalka* at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City as well as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* at UMKC. Wheat finished out her Lyric season as Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore* before returning to the Apsen Music Festival as Victoria Corelli in *A Wedding* by William Bolcom in July, 2016.

Ashley received her undergraduate degree from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, under the tutelage of Elizabeth Hynes. Ashley now studies with Vinson Cole.

Reviews:

"Space does not permit a listing of every cast member (who all threw themselves into the madness with infectious energy and consistently fine singing), but special praise is due to... Ashley Yvonne Wheat." ~ Marc Shugold, Opera News

"Ashley Wheat made a strong addition to the cast with her powerful operatic soprano topping off many of the group's harmonies. Her starry-eyed "I Could Have Danced All Night" was pitch-perfect and resonant all the way to the high note in ways that devotees of the film adaptation will be surprised and pleased to hear (sorry about it, Marni!)." ~ Karen Hague, KCMetropolis

"Ashley Wheat was subtly effective in the small role of Annina, with refreshingly unobtrusive acting..." ~ Libby Hanssen, The Kansas City Star

"Ashley Wheat makes a good Annina, and reminds this reviewer that she's always wanted to see a story about the secondary characters, the Anninas and Leporellos and so on who carry on looking after things as their masters and mistresses tootle about being operatic at each other." ~ Kelly Luck, KC Stage

