

## **Biography: Dr. Bronwen Forbay**

**Dr. BRONWEN FORBAY**, hailed by *Opera Magazine* for her “powerful, radiant, timbrally beautiful” soprano, is a Durban-born South African Fulbright Scholar acclaimed across three continents in opera, concert, and recital.

Operatic highlights include Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*), Orasia (*Orpheus*, U.S. premiere), Adina (*L’Elisir d’amore*), Velmyra (*Wading Home*), Violetta (*La Traviata*), and Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*). On the concert stage, she has performed major works by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven, as well as contemporary pieces like Miller’s *ReWind Cantata* and Mnomya’s *Ingqai sivele we-Africa*.

A passionate recitalist, presenter, and clinician, Forbay has performed in South Africa, the U.S., and Europe, including Paris’s Les Arts Georges V and Los Angeles with pianist Dr. Stephen Pierce. She has received numerous honors, including the Standard Bank Young Artist Award (2007) and first prize in the UNISA Southern African Voice Competition (2005). She was selected for the NATS Intern Program in 2013 and served on faculty at the Schmidt Vocal Arts Summer Institute in 2025.

Recent engagements include solo appearances with the Johannesburg and KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestras, a recital with organist Dr. Charles Tompkins, and Contessa Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*) with the Greenville Symphony.

Dr. Forbay is an Associate Professor of Voice at Furman University and has taught at institutions in both South Africa and the U.S. She holds degrees from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Manhattan School of Music, SMU, and CCM, and is the first South African woman to earn a DMA in Voice Performance.

A committed scholar and leader, she has coauthored articles in the NATS Journal of singing as well as the “first of its kind” resource *Afrikaans Art Song Literature: A Translation and Pronunciation Guide* (Oxford University Press, 2025), all with Dr. Christian Bester. She has presented widely at NATS, CMS, and ICVT, co-founded the South Africa Chapter of NATS (2022) and served as President of Furman’s BFSA (2024–2025).