



## Laura Whalen, Soprano Reviews

“...soprano Laura Whalen was convincing as a woman so deeply depressed and heartbroken that she could stab her new husband to death and then pledge her love and longing for the one that got away. Her acting was superb, and her voice was breathtaking, especially in that mad-scene aria and the prolonged coloratura that joined her voice with a very fine flutist in the orchestra pit. Whalen matched pitches with the flute’s every rattle, twist and trill, and in the end it sounded as if the two were engaged in a contest of sorts that ended in a tie.”

Arizona Daily Star – Cathalena E. Burch

“Laura Whalen, lending emotional weight...sings beautifully. Her Act II aria *Ah, I sense his love as vanished* is a clear musical highlight.”

Calgary Herald – Bob Clark

“Both vocally and dramatically, Laura Whalen’s floaty *Woodbird* created enchantment.”

Opera Canada – John Allison

“Whalen, technically polished, precise, elegant and gracious presented a finely etched account of Mozart’s *Exultate Jubilate* and mesmerizing performances of three modern Spanish songs...her voice has the brilliance of a true opera singer, she is also a superb recitalist.”

Calgary Herald – Kenneth DeLong

“Laura Whalen...an excellent choice...a highly articulate instrument, she added a delicate humanizing touch to Mr. Orff’s often rowdy alpha-male proceedings.”

The Washington Times – T. L. Ponick

“As clear as a bell, her voice carried over the full cast and was beautifully controlled even in the most challenging passages...a splendid triumph...dramatically, she was equally fine.”

Calgary Herald – Kenneth DeLong

“Whalen sang Tagore’s words and was nothing short of sensational. Hers is a gorgeous voice supported by endless breath. Her high quiet singing and utterly seductive phrasing was a marvel and revealed Schafer’s work as one of enormous power and beauty.”

Hamilton Spectator

“The outstanding aspect of the performance was the singing of Laura Whalen, whose purity of tone, superb pitch and thorough understanding of the work was evident throughout. Fundamentally a lyric soprano, she has the heft to carry full scoring. Musically, her emotional range is wide, effortlessly encompassing the playful elements of the final song as well as the deeper tones of the second of the songs.”

Calgary Herald – Kenneth DeLong

“Laura Whalen sang the *Countess* with great style-- stopped the show with a magnificent *Dove Sono*.”

The Globe and Mail – Robert Harris

“Whalen has a sense of phrase, the hues and coloration, the sheer musicality to turn notes into blossoms. It’s wonderful how Whalen can linger on a syllable or expertly gauge a leap to arrive perfectly and gracefully.”

The Record – Colleen Johnson

“The outstanding aspect of the performance was the singing of Laura Whalen whose purity of tone, superb pitch and thorough understanding of the work was evident throughout...musically, her emotional range is wide, encompassing the playful element as well as the deeper tones.” (Calgary Symphony, *GITANJALI*)  
Calgary Herald – Kenneth DeLong

“Laura Whalen, who sang the role of the *Countess* with ravishing beauty.”  
The Hamilton Spectator – Hugh Fraser