

21M.410 / 21M.515 Vocal Repertoire and Performance  
Spring 2005

Soprano Carmen Balthrop plays the title role in the 1982 Houston Grand Opera production of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*. A Washington native, Balthrop was inspired to become an opera singer at age eight, when she heard a broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera on her father's radio. Balthrop made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in 1997 and has appeared with several of the world's major opera companies and symphony orchestras, including the San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Washington Opera, Canadian Opera, Deutsche Oper (Berlin), Teatro La Fenice (Venice), the New York Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the National Symphony.

Fluent in German and Italian, Balthrop sings in 10 languages, including Mandarin and Cantonese Chinese. In 2001, Balthrop performed the national anthems of the United States and South Africa for the visit of former President Nelson Mandela. Her future engagements include return visits to Taiwan and Shanghai for recitals sung in Chinese and her debut performance of the title role in Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah* with Opera Columbus in 2005.

Balthrop holds a B.M. degree from the University of Maryland and a M.M. degree from Catholic University. She currently teaches as an Associate Professor of Voice at the University of Maryland School of Music and is a member of the University of Maryland Alumni Hall of Fame. Balthrop insists on keeping her age a secret and has two daughters, ages 18 and 25.

#### REFERENCES

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