



Biography

Short bio:

Kayla Collingwood is a contralto, classical music educator, and writer/creator from New Zealand, currently residing in France. She is passionate about bringing engaging classical music experiences to new (and returning!) audiences, and believes in the transformative impact of her chosen art forms. Her singing experiences are solid and varied, having sung in diverse professional contexts in New Zealand, France, and beyond. Following a post-Master of Music hiatus, she committed herself entirely to her multifaceted creative career in 2020. Taking an unconventional path has afforded her the opportunity to focus on technical vocal development - including transitioning from a mezzo-soprano to a contralto - and to cultivate a unique sense of interpretation, musicianship, and artistry.

Long bio:

Kayla Collingwood is a contralto, classical music educator, and writer/creator from New Zealand, currently residing in France.

She holds a Master of Music in Classical Voice from the University of Auckland (2016, supervisors: Dr. Morag Atchison and Dr. Gregory Camp) and a Graduate Certificate in Theatre Studies from the University of Waikato. Upon completing her postgraduate qualifications, Kayla moved to Paris in 2017 as a base for travel and career development. Alongside other employment, which included two years in London from 2018-2020, she studied with various private teachers and coaches and continued to develop her singing, primarily in recital and oratorio contexts.

Returning to France in 2020, Kayla embraced a multifaceted approach to her creative career, rekindling her professional singing career and parallel classical music and poetry projects. Notably, she founded Sound Garden: classical music immersion - a hub for discovery, education, and engagement with classical music, both online and in-person. In 2022, Kayla made the shift from mezzo-soprano to contralto.

Her attraction to opera and the world of classical singing was sparked on a school music trip at the age of 16, during which she saw New Zealand Opera's 2008 production of Janáček's *Jenůfa*. She was a member of the Freemasons NZ Opera Chorus from 2014-2016, also performing the role of the Third Boy in the company's 2016 mainstage production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

She has performed with many organisations as a soloist in operatic productions, oratorio, and other events. Kayla was a 2015 finalist in the NZ Aria competition and the 2016 Napier Aria, and was successful in a number of competitions around New Zealand. She is an alumna of the NZ Opera School (2015 and 2016) and the NZ Singing School (2013). Kayla was a 2016 recipient of the Anne Bellam Scholarship, and a 2015 recipient of a Freemasons University Scholarship and the John Arthur Langdon Scholarship in Music.



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