

Noted for her “effortlessly produced, rich voice”, American Soprano **Jill Gardner** has established herself among today’s leading operatic heroines in the industry. With nearly 25 years of professional experience and recognized as a “lyrico spinto, Puccini girl through and through”, her repertoire consists of the title roles of *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Manon Lescaut* as well as Minnie (*La Fanciulla del West*), Georgetta, Suor Angelica and Lauretta (*Il Trittico*), Liù (*Turandot*), Mimì and Musetta (*La Bohème*), Nedra (*Pagliacci*), Tatyana (*Eugene Onegin*), Leonora (*Il Trovatore*), Lady MacBeth (*MacBeth*), Madame Lidoine (*Dialogues of the Carmelites*), Santuzza (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) and Margherite (*Faust*) with such notable companies as Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Arizona Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Carolina, Detroit Opera, Madison Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Hawai’i Opera Theater, Toledo Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Mill City Summer Opera, Lyric Opera Baltimore, Maryland Lyric Opera, Fresno Grand Opera, Eugene Opera, Inland Northwest Opera and Piedmont Opera, among others. Equally at home in the operetta and musical theater traditions, Ms. Gardner gave the first inaugural opera house performances of the role of Margaret Johnson in Adam Guettel’s *Light in the Piazza* with Piedmont Opera and enjoyed success in Lear’s *The Merry Widow* (Syracuse Opera) as well as Sondheim’s *A Little Night Music* (Hawai’i Opera Theater). She has also appeared on the concert stage with such ensembles as the Washington Chorus, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the Winston-Salem Symphony, the Wichita Symphony and the Syracuse Symphony as well as the Binghamton Philharmonic and the Fresno Philharmonic. An alumna of the Young Artist Programs of Glimmerglass Opera Festival and Tri-Cities Opera in upstate New York, Ms. Gardner has a B.M. in Piano Performance from Centenary College of Louisiana and a M.M in Vocal Performance from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.



Ms. Gardner was a Co-Founder and Voice Teacher alongside her beloved late husband, Bass-Baritone Jake Gardner, of *A Singing Actor’s Studio* which they created together in 2004. Together, the Gardner’s traveled nationally presenting Masterclasses and Workshops in addition to staged opera scenes programs and fully staged operatic presentations to great acclaim. Today, Ms. Gardner maintains a small private voice studio where she now primarily teaches voice, role preparation and acts as a mentor to emerging singers in the operatic industry.

Since becoming organist for her home church, Mizpah Moravian Church, at the age of 13, Ms. Gardner has also been active in church music ministry for over twenty-five years. Having served the Moravian, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist and Catholic denominations as Director of Music Ministries and Organist, she currently is the Sanctuary Organist and Pianist at Main Street United Methodist Church in Kernersville, NC under the direction of Nancy Blakemore.