

Biography of Emily Hamper, vocal coach

Currently based in Stratford, Ontario, vocal coach and collaborative pianist Emily Hamper has led an active international career for over fifteen years. Noted for her musical sensitivity and attention to detail, she is in high demand by many of Canada's most prominent singers. In May 2011, Emily was awarded the "Best Collaborative Pianist" prize at the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition in Brandon, Manitoba: in November she accompanies first prize winner mezzo-soprano Erica Iris Huang on her national recital tour. As well as preparing singers for professional engagements worldwide, she has accompanied well over 1000 auditions in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, and New York. She has accompanied recitals for numerous presenters, including CBC Toronto's Glenn Gould Studio for the *Music Around Us* series, the San Francisco Opera, Calgary Opera, and both the Indian River and Orford Festivals. Her recital and concert collaborations have been broadcast on CBC Radio, Radio-Canada, Vermont Public Radio, and Classical 96.3 FM in Toronto. She has also performed in Prague, Kosice (Slovakia), and Washington DC.

In 2012, Ms. Hamper will join Calgary Opera as rehearsal pianist for their productions of *Moby Dick* and *La Bohème*. Other companies for whom she has worked in this capacity include Opera Atelier (*La Clemenza di Tito*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Toronto Summer Music Festival (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*), Green Mountain Opera Festival (*Madama Butterfly*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*), and L'Opéra de Montréal (*Agrippina*). She has served as assistant conductor with Opera Atelier and the Banff Centre, where she also made her conducting debut in an all-Mozart programme of opera excerpts. Additional credits include assisting in the production of several Canadian and world premieres of operas, most notably the Canadian premiere of Britten's *Paul Bunyan*. In a teaching capacity, Ms. Hamper has inspired many students at numerous institutions. Most recently, she co-taught the "Best Voice Forward" audition workshop with Kimberly Barber at Wilfrid Laurier University, and has given masterclasses for singers at Dalhousie and Acadia universities. As Music Director for the opera courses at Wilfrid Laurier University, in 2005, she led two sold-out performances of opera excerpts and was invited to return the following year. She held a position as staff coach at the University of Toronto from 1997 - 2002, then spent several years in Montreal coaching at Montreal Opera's Atelier Lyrique, L'Université de Montréal, and the Canadian Vocal Arts Institute under the leadership of Joan Dornemann.

Emily was born in Vancouver B.C. She completed her undergraduate musical training at UBC where she studied piano with the late Robert Rogers. A passion for vocal and chamber music led to specialised studies in these areas with Rena Sharon and Jane Coop. During this time she made her solo début in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra while also establishing herself as a gifted accompanist. An increased interest in opera led her to the Opera Division at the University of Toronto, where she apprenticed under James Fraser Craig and Stephen Ralls. She was hired as a member of the music staff immediately upon graduation. Emily is an alumnae of the prestigious Merola Opera Program in San Francisco: in 2002 she was awarded a Merola Career Grant for private studies in Munich, Germany.

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