

Colleen McGonigle

Mezzo-Soprano Colleen McGonigle believes that the power of music lies in its ability to tolerate differences and create connections between people to foster honest dialogue. She values the collaboration process in music and seeks to encourage communication between artists and their community

Colleen McGonigle has appeared in opera and musical theater roles with the Bucknell and Peabody Opera Theatres and Opera Steamboat. Colleen McGonigle has notably appeared as Julie Jordan in *Carousel*, Geraldine in *A Hand of Bridge*, the Second Knitter in *A Game of Chance*, and Dot in Jonathon Dove's *The Enchanted Pig*. With the Bucknell Opera Theatre, Ms. McGonigle participated in the workshop and premier of two new operas, *Ghosts of Monticello* by Garrett Fisher and *Cajuum Jaa Amajjis* by composition student Christian Humcke. She had the opportunity to work with guest musical directors, including Christopher Para, Richard Masters, and Jennifer Peterson, and with artists brought to Bucknell University under an Emerging Artists initiative, including Brian Mextorf. As a Young Artist with Opera Steamboat, Ms. McGonigle worked under the direction of Opera Colorado's Cherity Knoepke and the batons of Andres Cladera and Parisa Zaeri. She made her debut this season with the Peabody Opera Theatre in *L'Elisir d'Amore* under the direction of Samuel Mungo and baton of Leonardo Vordoni.

As well as appearing in staged productions, Ms. McGonigle's solo career has featured a number of concerts. With the Bucknell Opera Theatre, she performed in two concerts organized and coached by guest artists, Misty Ann Sturm and Amanda Johnston. The Bucknell Opera Theatre also presented two performances for the local River Woods Retirement Community and a lecture recital on "The History of Musical Theater" through the Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning. Colleen McGonigle has performed scenes from *Lakmé*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *West Side Story* in collaboration with the Bucknell Orchestra and under student direction. Ms. McGonigle is preparing scenes from *West Side Story* and *Trouble in Tahiti* for Bernstein Scenes concert with the Peabody Opera Theatre this season. Next fall, she will be a Street Singer in a production of Bernstein's *Mass* under the musical direction of Marin Alsop.

Ms. McGonigle represented Bucknell University in the finalist round of the National Opera Association National Collegiate Musical Theater Scene Finals in Indianapolis and presented "Say it Somehow" from *The Light in the Piazza*. She recently performed Benjamin Britten's *Phaedra* for the Sylvia L. Green Voice Competition at Peabody Conservatory.

While passionate about the solo performance arena, Colleen McGonigle is also an accomplished choral singer, and considers this to be an environment in which music has a particularly strong ability to bring people together and foster communication through art. Ms. McGonigle has recently performed with the Bucknell University Choirs, the Deer Creek Chorale, and the Baltimore Choral Arts Society. While with the Bucknell University Choirs, she performed *Anthracite Fields* with the Bang on a Can All-Stars as part of a year-long series, Coal Collections: Local, National, and International Stories. Ms. McGonigle also performed in the inaugural years of the Bach @ Bucknell Festival, celebrating baroque and contemporary repertoires with guest orchestra, and soloists, faculty and guest artist recitals, and cross-departmental lectures and discussions. Colleen McGonigle has toured internationally with the Bucknell University Choirs, featuring choral collaborations in Belgrade, Serbia with Collegium Musicum and in Sofia, Bulgaria with Cantus Firmus. The Deer Creek Chorale is an intergenerational community chorus

with the compelling mission of providing opportunity for choral artistry, community service, and personal enrichment. This season the Deer Creek Chorale will be performing Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* in Carnegie Hall and under the direction of Z. Randall Stroope and will donate proceeds to Pennies for Peace. The Baltimore Choral Arts Society is one of Maryland's premier choral ensembles and this season features performances with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under conductor Jack Everly, a community sing-along of Handel's *Messiah*, and a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Peabody Youth Orchestra.

When she isn't on stage or in a practice room, Colleen McGonigle may be found in a research laboratory or with her nose buried in neuroscience literature. Working under Judy Grisel at Bucknell University, she conducted a series of studies on a mouse-model for alcoholism. Ms. McGonigle is a published author in this field; her article, " β -endorphin regulates alcohol consumption induced by exercise restriction in female mice" was published in 2016 in *Alcohol*. She also wrote a comprehensive honors thesis of her undergraduate research entitled "Neuroendocrine implications for coping and alcohol consumption in response to exercise restriction." Ms. McGonigle has presented this body of research domestically at the *Research Society on Alcoholism* annual conference, the *Society for Neuroscience* convention, and the *Pioneers in Endocrinology Workshop* at Rutgers University. She has also presented internationally at the *International Congress on Alcoholism and Stress* in Volterra, Italy. Colleen McGonigle plans to continue her neuroscience work alongside her musical career in the future, as the two fields inform and provide vitality to one another.

Colleen McGonigle earned her Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience from Bucknell University, where she graduated summa cum laude with honors. She also completed the degree program for a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Performance and studied under Emily Martin-Moberley. Through the duration of her time at Bucknell, Ms. McGonigle was awarded with Arts Merit, Dean's and Rooke Chapel Ringer's scholarships. She was also honored with senior departmental awards in music and neuroscience. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Peabody Conservatory, where she studies with Tony Arnold.