SAANE AZIZA HALAHOLO, SOPRANO

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Praised for performing with "power and gravitas" (*Cincinnati Business Courier*), Tongan-American and California native Saane Aziza Halaholo is already gaining recognition as a promising, young lyric soprano. Ms. Halaholo begins her 2023-24 season covering Cio-Cio San in Matthew Ozawa's new production of *Madame Butterfly* at Cincinnati Opera. She then joins Opera Colorado as an Artist-in-Residence to cover Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* and sing Giannetta in *The Elixir of Love* and Clorinda in *Cinderella*. Ms. Halaholo finishes the season as a Young Artist at the Glimmerglass Festival, covering Giunone in *La Calisto* and performing Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*. Most recently she was a finalist in the Premiere Opera Foundation 2023 International Voice Competition in New York City.

Ms. Halaholo's repertoire also includes New Prioress in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Susannah in Floyd's *Susannah*, Contessa Almaviva in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Léontine in Bologne's *L'Amant Anonyme*, Alice Ford in *Falstaff*, Blanche de la Force in Dialogues des Carmélites, and Nina in Massenet's *Chérubin*. A fierce proponent of contemporary music, Ms. Halaholo workshopped the role of Marilyn in Santa Fe Opera's commission of *The Righteous* by Gregory Spears and Tracy K. Smith with Cincinnati Opera's Opera Fusion: New Works. She also performed two world premieres in Cincinnati Song Initiative's 2023 virtual concert *Let It Be New*. Equally comfortable on the oratorio stage, she has appeared as the soloist in Fauré's *Requiem*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*, Saint-Saëns' *Oratorio de Noël*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

A winner of the 2022 Tuesday Musical Association Voice competition and recipient of an Encouragement Award in the 2021 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Ms. Halaholo has trained at prestigious institutions such as Wolf Trap Opera, the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, and the Bob Cole Conservatory at California State University, Long Beach.