



## **Melissa Bencic, Junior Voice**

Melissa Bencic is the Founder and Artistic Director of Bravo Academy for the Performing Arts in Toronto where she works extensively in developing innovative performing arts programs for young and emerging professional artists. In addition, Melissa is part of the Vocal Faculty at Sheridan College. Melissa has been dedicated to teaching and developing performing arts programs for over 20 years. She is active as a voice instructor, adjudicator, master class clinician, producer, stage director, consultant and performer. She holds a M.Mus. in Opera Performance from McGill, a B.Mus. in

Opera Performance from UBC and studied Opera at Liceo Musicale "F. Manzano" in Treviso, Italy. Melissa has produced over 150 musicals and stage directed over 50 musicals and operas. Melissa performs both nationally and internationally and favorite roles include Susanna (*Le Nozze Di Figaro*), Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Gretel (*Hansel & Gretel*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*) and Serpetta (*Die Gartnerin aus Liebe*). Recent credits include directing a workshop production of Dean Burry's new opera *Pygmalion* as part of COSI (Centre for Opera Studies in Italy) and producing Canada's first live virtual musical *Super School the musical*.

Currently, Melissa is directing *The Theory of Relativity* with Bravo Academy's Advanced Teen Music Theatre Troupe which will be performed as a live digital musical. Melissa holds much experience teaching artists of all ages a variety of styles of music and acting. Many of Melissa's students have gone on and are professional working artists performing internationally in opera, music theatre, theatre, film and pop. Melissa is a member of the Music Theatre Educators' Alliance (MTEA), MTEA Voice, National Alliance of Music Theatre, Theatre Ontario, Toronto Alliance of the Performing Arts, Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Melissa loves adjudicating and working with young artists and is excited to be a part of OKMF!