

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC CLUBS
2009 Young Artist Winner**

KAY SUZANNE WELCH - SOPRANO

American born soprano, Kay Suzanne Welch brings to the stage a wealth of musical expertise gained through critically acclaimed performances of opera, oratorio, concerts and recitals. Ms. Welch made her operatic debut with Illinois Opera Theater in Puccini's *La Bohème*. Other roles have included Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, Sister Constance in *Dialogue of the Carmelites*, Violetta in *La traviata*, Musetta in *La Bohème* and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*. She has performed under the baton of national and international conductors and directors Kurt Klippstatter, Eduardo Diaz Muñoz, Bruce Donnell, Richard Barrett and Henson Keys.

Ms. Welch is equally at home with oratorio and has appeared in productions of Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Creation*, the Mozart *Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and the Faure *Requiem*. She has appeared with a variety of ensembles such as the Danville Symphony, Rockford Symphony, Champaign-Urbana Symphony, The Prairie Ensemble, and Baroque Artists of Champaign-Urbana.

Ms Welch offers a program of opera and musical theater favorites. She also offers an Americana Evening featuring works of Porter, Ives, Berlin and Rodgers & Hammerstein, as well as hymns and sacred songs. Her frequently performed Tin Pan Alley recital showcases favorites of Gershwin, Rodgers & Hart, Jerome Kern.

Ms. Welch was the Women's Voice Winner of the 2009 National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist competition. She has also been a district winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council competition, a semi-finalist in the William C Byrd vocal competition and recipient of the Joseph Schlanger Opera Award and the Dorothy Gonzales Opera Award.

Ms. Welch earned her BA from Olivet Nazarene University, and her MM from the University of Illinois. She is currently completing her doctorate at the University of Illinois. Her services are made available through the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Program. Visit her website at www.kaywelch.com. To secure a performance by Ms. Welch, contact NFMC's Terry Blair at blair.terry@sbcglobal.net.