

*Soprano* Melissa Culloton is a native of Halden, Norway and is a 1998 graduate of St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, where she graduated cum laude with a double major in vocal performance and music education. She holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in vocal performance and pedagogy with Jean del Santo and Clifton Ware from the University of Minnesota and she also holds a Masters in vocal performance as well as a Masters in Music Education from the same institution.

Miss Culloton's ensemble and solo appearances include The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra Anniversary Chorale, The Dale Warland Singers, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, as *Dryade* in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with the University of Minnesota Opera, The St. Olaf Choir, Glemmen Ungdoms Kantori (Youth Choir), under the direction of Egil Hovland, and the Norwegian National Youth Choir. Other solo performances include a summer tour of Tuscany, Italy, in Norway with the acclaimed Norske Blåseensemble (Norwegian Wind Ensemble), at MacPhail Center for the Arts, and at the Norwegian Memorial Church in Minneapolis for the annual Leif Erickson Festival and Nordvendt concert series. Miss Culloton recently debuted for Thursday Musical and has also given a guest recital at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, MN.

Miss Culloton is employed at Gethsemane Lutheran church in Hopkins, MN where she is section leader and soloist for the adult choir and where she also holds a private voice studio. In addition, she holds a voice studio at Burnsville Senior, Prior Lake and at Armstrong Senior High Schools.

Major academic highlights include the presentations of her thesis: "Norwegian Art Songs Written during the Time of the Dissolution of the Union between Norway and Sweden" at the *Phenomenon of Singing- Festival 500 Symposium* in St. John's, Newfoundland in June 2007 and at the *National Association of Teachers of Singing* conference held in Minneapolis in June 2006, where her paper poster was ranked among the top three presenters. Miss Culloton was also chosen to present her paper for the 2007 *Student National Association of Teachers of Singing* Conference held at Bloomington, IN. Miss Culloton is a two time award recipient of Torske Klubbens Scholarship Award for Graduated students through the University of Minnesota.

Miss Culloton is a current member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Minnesota Music Teachers Forum, Minnesota Music Teachers Association, Music Teachers National Association, The Lyrica Society, Thursday Musical and Sons of Norway. Miss Culloton is also a certified Hatha yoga instructor and a contracted model for Meredith Model and Talent agency in Minneapolis, MN.