

**Bio:**

Mezzo-Soprano Veena Akama-Makia will be a Jette Parker Artist at The Royal Opera House for 2023-25 seasons. For her 2022-2023 season, she will complete her final season as a Chicago Opera Theater/Chicago College of the Performing Arts at Roosevelt University Professional Diploma Candidate and Young Artist. In the Spring of 2023, she will make her role debut as Nancy in *Albert Herring* (Britten), as Wren 2 in *The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing* (Chen), and as Kendra in the world premiere of *The Cook-Off* (Okpebohlo/Campbell). Last summer, Ms. Akama-Makia joined the San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program as a Young Artist, where she performed the role of Dritte Dame in *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart) and was a soloist in the Merola Grand Finale. In the Spring of 2022, she made her COT debut as Tawny Betty in the World Premiere of *Quamino's Map* (Wallen/Brevoort) and the role of Tree Spirit in *The BeeKeeper* (Lu/Rourke) as part of COT's Vanguard Initiative. In the fall of 2021, she began her residency with COT by covering the role of Mercedes in performances of *Carmen* (Bizet) and the role of Ib in *Becoming Santa Claus* (Adamo). Ms. Akama-Makia has been honored with several awards, most recently being a 2023 Annapolis Opera Voice Competition Semi-finalist, a 2023 Pasadena Voice Competition Semi-finalist, a 2022 Encouragement Award Winner from Laffont Competition Illinois District, a 2022 Irene Dalis Vocal Competition Semi-finalist, a James Toland Vocal Competition Tier I Semi-finalist, and received the Virginia Cooper Maier Award in the 2022 Musicians Club of Women Vocal Competition.