**Tracy Kaufman, mezzo-soprano**

has been performing at the Candlelight Dinner Playhouse this past season. She took on the role of Rose Alvarez in *Bye, Bye, Birdie* this winter, followed by Tuptim in *The King and I* in the spring. At the end of the previous season, Tracy revisited her love for theatre with Bas Bleu Theatre’s production of *She Stoops to Conquer* as Mrs. Hardcastle.

A native of Edison, New Jersey, Ms. Kaufman recently completed a Master of Music degree at Colorado State University. From 2008 to 2009, she bowed as Musetta in the Opera Fort Collins production of *La Bohème* and appeared with Colorado State Opera Theatre in the title role of *La Cenerentola*, The Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and Anna Maurant in *Street Scene*.

During the 2007/2008 season, Ms. Kaufman sang both the title role in *The Rape of Lucretia* and Meg in *Falstaff* with Colorado State Opera Theater, performed as a guest soloist with the Edison Symphony Orchestra in New Jersey, and appeared with Opera Fort Collins as Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana* (along side Charles Taylor and Cynthia Lawrence) and Berta in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. During the 2007 season, she originated the role of Louise Crane in the new opera *The Gentle Lark of New Rochelle*; *Celebrating the Life of Ellabelle Davis* for the New Rochelle Opera Company and added the role of Suzuki (*Madama Butterfly*) to her repertoire.

During the 2004 season, Ms. Kaufman appeared in concert and operatic performances with Opera New Jersey and Opera New Jersey’s Outreach Ensemble. There she performed the role of Nancy in *Albert Herring* under the baton of Maestro Daniel Beckwith and the direction of Marc Verzatt. The *Princeton Town Topics* noted, “Tracy Kaufman, who played the role of Sid’s girlfriend Nancy…always had good control over the dynamics and drama of the scene, as well as the music.” She was also seen as La tasse chinoise and Un Pâtre in *L’Enfant et les Sortilèges*. This led to a tour with the Opera New Jersey Outreach Ensemble as the title character in *Carmen* during the 2005 and 2006 seasons.

Ms. Kaufman has worked with such distinguished music professionals as Daniel Ferro, Sharon Sweet, Jane Bunnell, Daniel Beckwith, David Grabarkewitz, Marc Verzatt, Dan Saunders, Jane Klaviter, Ashley Putnam, Michael Recchiutti, Giovanni Reggioli, Patrick Visseq, Jerome Hines, Anthony Amato,Will Graham, Millard Altman, and Michael Cordovana. Notable roles include: Cherubino (*Le Nozzedi Figaro*), Siebel (*Faust*), Nicklausse (*Les Contes d’Hoffmann*), Hata (*The Bartered Bride*), Hansel (*Hansel and Gretel*), Gianetta (*L’Elisir d’amore*), Maddelena (*Rigoletto*), and Mercedes (*Carmen*) with such companies as Light Opera of Oklahoma, Liederkranz Opera, State Repertory Opera of New Jersey, Natchez Opera Festival, Amato Opera, New York Vocal Arts Ensemble, Goliard Concerts, and OperaNova. Ms. Kaufman has also performed and studied as a participant in the opera intensive programs of The Bel Canto Institute in New Paltz, NY, The Daniel Ferro Vocal Program in Greve, Italy, and the Oscar Seagle Music Colony in Schroon Lake, NY.

In 2003, Tracy Kaufman was honored as a semi-finalist in Shreveport Opera’s Singer of the Year Competition. She then went on to participate as a Young Artist at the Natchez Opera Festival in Mississippi. In addition to local area concerts, Tracy performed the roles of Second Boy in *The Magic Flute*, Countess Ceprano in *Rigoletto*, and as a soloist in their Gershwin review, *An Evening with George and Ira Gershwin*.

Ms. Kaufman’s talents also span the musical theatre and theatrical genres. She has delighted audiences across the US and Canada with her fine-tuned comic timing and piano skills as Vi Petty in *The Buddy Holly Story*. The *Arkansas Democratic Gazette* declared, “Tracy Kaufman was a hoot as Vi Petty.”

Other favorite roles include; Viola in Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*, Kathy Selden in *Singin’ in the Rain* (where *The Courier* (New Jersey) praised, “Kaufman’s voice is true and pure, … [is a] remarkable tap dancer and [did] justice to the demanding choreography.”) Pitti-Sing (*The Mikado*), Petra (*A Little Night Music*), and Hodel (*Fiddler on the Roof*).

Ms. Kaufman holds a Master of Music degree from Colorado State University, graduating with highest honors, and a Music Bachelor degree in Voice Performance and Music Education, *magna cum laude*, from Boston University.