

ACA ALUMNI IN THE WORLD / MERIDETH GEORGE MARANO

“Small, orchestrated events . . .”

“Sometimes I am not sure how I ended up in the place I am today. I think that it was through a series of small, orchestrated events that at the time seemed so trivial,” says Merideth George Marano (ACA 2004, Carson-Newman 2008). “There is no doubt that my education at ACA played an enormous role in my decision to pursue a career in the timeless art of opera.

“I get some odd looks when I tell people that I sing opera, but it is really only in the past few decades that appreciation for the classical voice has begun to fade in the United States.

Opera has entertained the world for centuries and as an opera director told me, ‘It’s for any culture that aspires to do improved education and commerce, and it’s part of any well-rounded community in this society.’ I am thrilled to participate in this fascinating art form.

“My mother instilled in me a love of music when I was young, but my love of performing started with ACA’s musical theater department. JoLynn Goffin gave me varying roles that



Meri in Fiddler at Converse College

challenged me and gave me the confidence to be a singing actor (*Jane Eyre*, *Millie*, *Marguerite*). Her support and unwavering faith played a huge role in my decision to audition for music schools. When I received the first full tuition music scholarship ever to be given at Carson-Newman, my decision for a career path started to take shape. I felt as though God had given me a talent that I should not ignore.

“In college, I majored in music edu-

cation, played varsity volleyball, performed in various ensembles, participated in the Honors Program, Alpha Chi and Study Abroad, where I performed in Germany and studied at the Vienna State Opera House. I was able to travel with my choir to Israel and appeared as a soloist in Jordan.

“Now I’m finishing my master’s in Voice Performance at Converse College’s Petrie School of Music. I assist the business manager of the music school and am a resident dorm counselor. While at Converse, I have performed as Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Laetitia in Menotti’s *The Old Maid and the Thief*. This summer I will perform the title role in Puccini’s *Suor Angelica* in Rome. Meanwhile, I am recently and very happily married to Lt. Michael Marano, a West Point graduate who is now stationed at an Army base in Germany. I will join him at the end of my semester in May.

“I am so excited for the opportunity to live in Europe, and hope to take advantage of our years in Germany to further my opera career.”

