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Newton native Sara Heaton sings in the new year with Boston Baroque

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By Keith Powers/Wicked Local Arts Correspondent

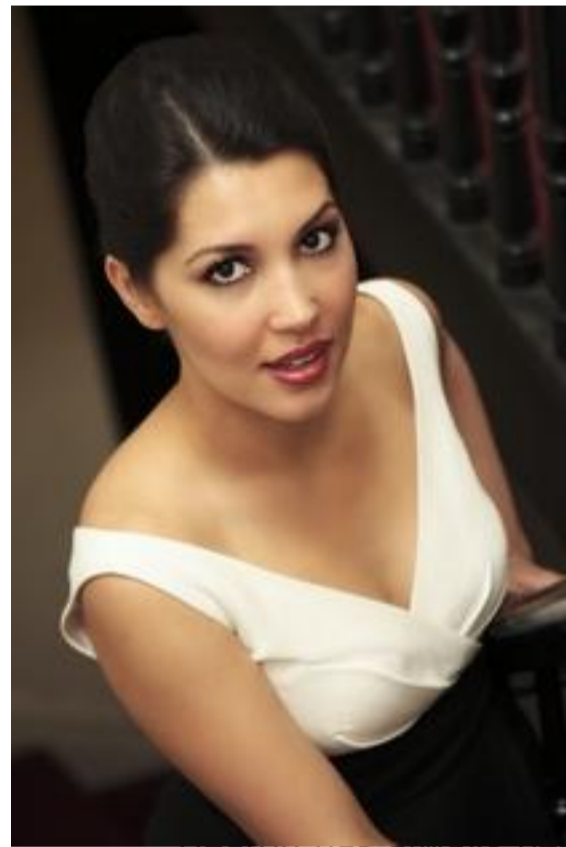
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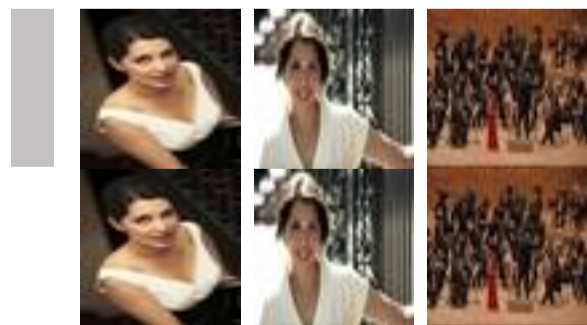
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Sara Heaton is one busy soprano. And versatile too.

This September she sang in Odyssey Opera's "Die tote Stadt." And as soloist in "All for Opera" with Symphony by the Sea. She sang Strauss' riveting "Four Last Songs" with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa in Mexico.



Zoom Sara Heaton Courtesy Photo



poser Tod Machover's piece, "Vocal Vibrations," at Toss in half a dozen Metropolitan Opera, singing in "The Barber" under the baton of

no different. In fact, the the new year, singing on New Year's Eve and the Boston Baroque at Cambridge. And shortly after recital with pianist Akiko Free Library, on Jan. 11.

Heaton has always been a singer; she's just hasn't always thought of herself as a professional one. "I thought of it as something I did outside of school," she says. "It was my number one extracurricular activity though, that's for sure."

But music was always around. "My parents are huge music fans, and amateur musicians," she says. "I saw my first opera at age 5 - it was 'Carmen,' and I loved it. I couldn't wait to start piano, and I studied all through high school. And I played violin for seven years, in the Newton North orchestra and the NEC prep orchestra."

But when it came time for college, Heaton chose the University of Pennsylvania instead of a conservatory. "I thought about it for about a second," she says. "I studied anthropology at

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Penn though. I did do my thesis on ethnomusicology. And then after college, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, and this nagging voice kept telling me to be a singer."

So Heaton went to Boston University's excellent vocal program for a master's of arts in music, where she met Boston Baroque's director, Martin Pearlman. "I graduated in May (2007), and he asked me to audition for 'Cosi' that fall. I got the part, and that was my first role, singing Despina."

Things happened fast after that. Subsequent roles with Boston Baroque of course, where Heaton quickly developed a stellar early music reputation. But also a relationship with Machover, whose 2010 opera, "Death and the Powers," combined robot technology, artistic directorship from Diane Paulus, a libretto by Robert Pinsky, and the conducting skills of Gil Rose into a sensational presentation.

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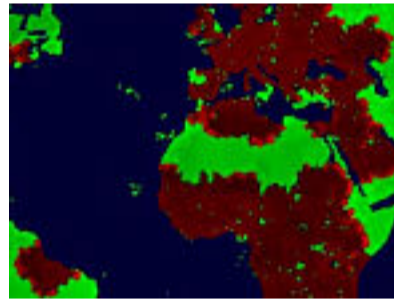
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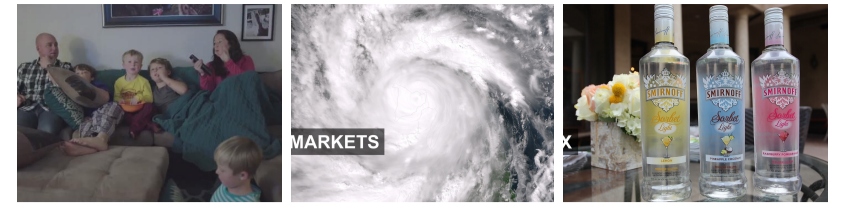


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