Brooklyn, New York native soprano Cherisse Williams is a Doctor of Musical Arts student at the University of North Texas under the tutelage of Dr. Carol Wilson. In performance with UNT Opera, she performed the role of Adina (*L’elisir d’amore*) this past Spring. Last season she sung the role of Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* with Once Upon an Opera. She was in the ensemble of Martina Arroyo’s Prelude to Performance’s production of *Carmen*. Ms. Williams has played the role of Nannetta in the Midwest Institute of Opera’s production of *Falstaff*. Her Manhattan School of Music credits include the Princess in their mainstage production of *L’enfant et les Sortilèges* and Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* for their opera scenes titled "A World Made Real: Five Stories of Women in Pursuit of Dreams." Her Ithaca College credits include the title role of Sally Hemings in the world premiere of Dana Wilson's *The Wolf by the Ears*, Beth (cover) in *Little Women* and Mademoiselle Silberklang in *The Impresario* with the Ithaca Hidden Gems Project. Her other credits include The Princeton Festival’s production of *Porgy and Bess* (ensemble) and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Peaseblossom) at Westminster Choir College Opera Theatre.

      Ms. Williams was a first-prize winner at the NATS-CNYFL competition. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from Westminster Choir College, a Master of Music from Ithaca College, and a Professional Studies Certificate in opera from The Manhattan School of Music.  She is a volunteer artist for Sing for Hope and is one of the owners of the *Sparkle Twins*. In addition to singing, Ms. Williams is a professional commercial and print model, and a former preschool teacher. She most recently starred in the national Verizon Holiday commercial along with her identical twin sister. Which received over 2 million views worldwide.

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