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Kirstin Chávez

Mezzo-soprano



Kirstin Chávez is considered one of the most riveting and significant performing mezzo-sopranos today. The combination of her magnificent voice, expansive range, dramatic intensity of her acting, and natural physical beauty make her an arresting and unique presence on the operatic stage.

Ms. Chávez captures attention and acclaim in her signature roles and is recognized as one of the definitive interpreters of *Carmen* of our generation. She performs Bizet's iconic heroine with great success throughout the world with leading opera companies and symphonies including New National Theatre Foundation in Tokyo, Staatsoper Hannover, Opera Australia, China National Center for the Performing Arts, Central City Opera, Arizona Opera, Columbus Symphony, Opera Queensland, Welsh National Opera, Orlando Philharmonic, and Oper Graz, when *Opera News* reported that her *Carmen* was "the *Carmen* of a lifetime. With her dark, generous mezzo, earthy eroticism, volcanic spontaneity and smoldering charisma, Chávez has it all, including a superb command of French and a sense of humor."

This season, Ms. Chávez will reprise her signature role in *Carmen* with Opera San Antonio, Meg Page in *Falstaff* with San Diego Opera, and sing a mezzo-soprano solo in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with Asheville Symphony and Verdi's *Requiem* with New Haven Symphony. This season will also see Ms. Chávez's return to The Metropolitan Opera in their production of *Der Rosenkavalier*.

Ms. Chávez is collecting accolades for her fiery portrayals through Europe and Australia. Recent engagements have brought her to Australia as her signature role in *Carmen* at Opera Queensland, which she also performed in concert with Venture Opera and University of Southern Mississippi, and to Italy for *The Rape of Lucretia* at Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. She also made her debut with The Royal Opera House-Covent Garden in London with the role of Marquise de Merteuil in the contemporary opera *Quartett* by Luca Francesconi. She later reprised the role of Marquise de Merteuil in *Quartett* at Opera Malmö in Sweden. Recent U.S. engagements include Paula in *Florencia en el Amazonas* at Nashville Opera, Amneris in *Aïda* with Opera Southwest and Baltimore Concert Opera, and a concert with New York City Opera at Jazz at Lincoln Center.

Ms. Chávez demonstrates her versatility in her portrayals of opera's favorite pants roles including Orfeo in Gluck's *Orfeo* at The Metropolitan Opera, Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier* at Florentine Opera, and Hänsel in *Hänsel and Gretel* at Atlanta Opera. Chávez earns praise for her performances in modern American operas, as well, from engagements such as Jo in Adamo's *Little Women* at Opera Pacific, Thérèse in Tobias Picker's *Thérèse Raquin* at San Diego Opera, and

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Sondra Finchley in Picker's *An American Tragedy* in her Metropolitan Opera principal début in 2005. She recently added two more modern roles to the list: Sister Helen Prejean in Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* at Tulsa Opera, where the *Tulsa World* reviewer referred to her performance as "searing and incandescent," and Sharon Falconer in Aldridge's *Elmer Gantry*, of which the *Tulsa World* reviewer spoke to the "otherworldly quality to her singing; a mix of the earthy and the ethereal."

Chávez also earned a reputation for bringing her dynamic performances to concert and recital stages. Recently, she appeared on a duo recital of music by Bach, Schubert, and others with organist Marc Baumann at Himmerod Abbey and then at St. Martin's Cathedral in Germany. She also appeared as a soloist in "Bizet to Broadway" with Ocean City Pops, on a gala concert with Long Bay Symphony Orchestra; performed *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* with Florence Symphony; multiple concerts with Carolina Master Chorale; Bach's *B-minor Mass*, Händel's *Messiah*, and *Orfeo* with New Mexico State University; *El Amor Brujo* with the Orquesta Filarmónica Sonora in Mexico; and Rossini's *Stabat Mater* with Musica Sacra di Monreale, among numerous others. After a series of successful recitals of Spanish art songs with pianist Paolo André Gualdi and guitarist Sara Gianfelici, Ms. Chávez released the album *Pasión*, which features the trio in a diverse sampling of Spanish song repertoire for mezzo-soprano, piano, and guitar.

Chávez earned a Bachelor of Music degree, with honors, from New Mexico State University, and a Master of Music degree in Voice Performance and Performance Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. After beginning an Artistic Residency with the Orlando Opera, Ms. Chávez won several major international competitions, including The Sullivan Foundation, The George London Foundation, the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation, the Opera Index Foundation, The Gerda Lissner Foundation, the Jensen Foundation, and the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (National Finalist).