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Lisa Chavez ~ Mezzo Soprano

Lisa Chavez, Mezzo Soprano, has been described by her “plush storm of a voice” and “graceful stage presence”. 23/24 Chavez began the season with a role debut as Orlovsky in **Die Fledermaus** with Opera in Williamsburg and joined Opera San José as Cherubino for the reading of the new opera **Zheng** by Shinji Eshima and librettist Tony Asaro. Lisa was also the Mezzo Soloist for Shreveport Opera’s 75th Diamond Anniversary gala concert. In May she debuted as the Mezzo Soloist in the **Verdi Requiem** with the Savannah Philharmonic in conjunction with Sherrill Milnes VOICEexperience, and **Beethoven 9** with Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra. In June she will be joining Opera Fort Collins as Salud in **La Vida Breve** programmed with other Spanish songs.



Next season will bring Ms. Chavez back to her home state of California and the hilarious character of Marquise of Berkenfield in **La fille du régiment** with Livermore Valley Opera. She will also return to Sarasota for 10 performances of Santuzza in a double bill of **Cavalleria rusticana** and **Pagliacci**.

In the 22/23 season she made 4 role debuts. The fall began with Cimarosa’s comedy **Il matrimonio segreto** singing Fidalma with Sarasota Opera. Lisa then made her company debut with Opera Tampa singing Adalgisa in **Norma**. She immediately returned to Sarasota Opera to sing the title role in Massenet’s rarely performed **Thérèse**. In the Spring she joined Knoxville Opera as Marcellina in their production of **Le nozze di Figaro** where she had also sung the ever faithful Suzuki in **Madama Butterfly**. She joined Opera Idaho for their summer concert in the park singing highlights from **Carmen** and **Il Trovatore**.

Along with standard repertoire, Ms. Chavez has shown her strength in her interpretations of newer works. She originated the role of Maggie in the World Premiere of Iain Bell’s **Stonewall** with New York City Opera. “Heading a superb cast was Lisa Chavez as the tough Maggie, flinging out compact mezzo tone(s) like fists.” the Observer. In addition to **Stonewall**, Lisa has been seen in multiple American operas. These include; the New York premiere of Tobias Picker’s **Dolores Claiborne** with New York City Opera, Dinah in **Trouble in Tahiti** with Opera Parallèle, Secretary in **The Consul**, and Madame Volanges in **Dangerous Liaisons**. In November 2008 Ms. Chavez was a finalist in the worldwide Opera Competition with Mezzo TV, and was seen via live telecast performing the role of Elizabeth Proctor in Robert Ward’s **The Crucible** in over 40 European countries. She was invited to return to the festival the next year to

sing the role of Mrs. Bass for the European premiere of Tobias Picker's dramatic work **Emmeline**, also televised on Mezzo TV.

Her first performance post pandemic was her debut as Dido Queen of Carthage in Sarasota Opera's **Dido and Aeneas** in the Spring of 2021, then over the summer was featured in a series of concerts with New York City Opera in Bryant Park. She sang the title role in **Carmen**, was Mezzo Soloist in the concert Now That's What I Call Opera, and Maddalena in **Rigoletto** which was also performed at the Phoenicia Festival of the Voice. Chavez also made an anticipated return to Washington Opera Society in another Verdi debut as Amneris in **Aida**.

Carmen has become a signature role for her. She has performed the title role with Sarasota Opera for all 11 sold out performances in their Winter 2018 season. Past season **Carmen** productions include performances as Guest Artist with Opera San José, New York City Opera, Opera in Williamsburg, and Washington Opera Society in D.C.

Ms. Chavez made her debut with Sarasota Opera in the iconic role of Madame de Croissy of **Dialogues of the Carmelites** as part of their 2017 Winter season. Since that debut she has sung 10 roles, 8 of which were role debuts.

For the 13/14 and 14/15 season she was a principal resident artist with Opera San José. While there she debuted 7 new roles. Isabella in **L'Italiana in Algeri** was the crowning jewel to her tenure at OSJ. Georgia Rowe from Opera News wrote, "Lisa Chavez ... glided through Isabella's arias with assurance; her buttery, richly colored mezzo was evenly produced throughout her range, sounding shapely in Act I's "Cruda sorte!" registering with luxuriant ease and beauty in her Act II invocation of Venus, "Per lui che adoro," and emerging with bright, forward tone in the ensembles. Chavez is a graceful stage presence, and there was no doubting her character's intelligence and resourcefulness. "Pensa alla patria" was her most convincing moment." Other roles sung during tenure with Opera San Jose were; Donna Elvira in **Don Giovanni**, Hansel in **Hansel and Gretel**, Maddalena in **Rigoletto**, Harriet Herriton in the professional premiere of **Where Angels Fear to Tread**, Suzuki in **Madama Butterfly**, Meg Page in **Falstaff**, and Third Lady in **Die Zauberflöte**.

In 2013 Chavez won First Place and Audience Choice awards in the Irma M. Cooper Vocal Competition with Opera Columbus, and also placed Third in the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition in San Jose. In 2014 she placed 2nd in the Shreveport Singer of the Year Competition, and was also a grant recipient from the Giulio Gari Foundation. In 2015 she was a Finalist in the renowned Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition. Chavez has also received Encouragement Awards from the Gerda Lissner Foundation in 2009 and 2011.

Lisa is a graduate of the Master's Degree Program at the Manhattan School of Music and was a founding member of Opera Collective, an independent opera company making Operatic repertoire accessible to all of the New York City metro area. Chavez is a California Bay Area native, born in Oakland, and attended California State University Hayward (East Bay) where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Music.