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Lisa Chavez ~ Mezzo Soprano

Lisa Chavez, has been described as possessing a “plush storm of a voice” and “graceful stage presence” as well as being “a powerhouse both vocally and emotionally”. The 25/26 season began with **Carmen** in Bryant Park with New York City Opera. Ms. Chavez will add Verdi's Azucena to her list of role debut's with Sarasota Opera. She will also be joining North Carolina Opera for the first time in a familiar role, Suzuki, in Puccini's heartbreaking **Madama Butterfly**. Then returning to an orchestral favorite as the Mezzo Soloist in Verdi's Requiem with Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra in connection with Sherrill Milnes Savannah VOICE Festival.



Last season saw her make her Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre debut singing the three Mezzo leads of Frugola, Principessa, and Zita in a new production of Puccini's **Il Trittico** which was filmed for release in the near future. She returned to Sarasota Opera for her role debut as Santuzza in **Cavalleria Rusticana**. "Soaring above the orchestra, Chavez's 'Voi lo sapete' was a highlight," John Fleming, Opera News.

Recent debuts include Mezzo soloist in Verdi's Requiem with the Savannah Philharmonic, Adalgisa in Bellini's **Norma** with Opera Tampa, the title character in Massenet's rarely performed **Thérèse** with Sarasota Opera, and Marcellina in **Nozze di Figaro** with Knoxville Opera.

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.

Other favorite roles include; Amneris in **Aida**, Salud in **La Vida Breve**, Paula in **Florecia en el**

Amazonas, Federico García Lorca in **Ainadamar** and, Dido in **Dido and Aeneas**.

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.