



HOPE BRIGGS
SOPRANO

Soprano **Hope Briggs** is well known for her dramatic portrayals and her distinctive voice. Of her impressive San Francisco Opera debut as the Duchess of Parma in Busoni's *Doktor Faust* Opera News raved, "In her company debut, as the Duchess, soprano Hope Briggs was stellar, delivering one of the evening's highlights with her lusciously intoned, lovelorn aria." Other career highlights include The First Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* at Frankfurt Opera, The Duchess of Parma in Busoni's *Doktor Faust* at Staatstheater Stuttgart, and the title role of *Aida* at Sacramento Opera, Nevada Opera, and Cedar Rapids Opera. Ms. Briggs also created the role of Paula in the world premiere of Hector Armienta's *River of Women*. Her most recent performances include Serena in *Porgy*

and *Bess* with New Orleans Opera and Verdi's *Requiem* with the Bay Back Chorale. Other recent engagements include Leonora in *Il Trovatore* with El Paso Opera and Festival Opera of Walnut Creek, Amelia in *Un Ballo in Maschera* at Festival Opera and Serena in *Porgy and Bess* at Tulsa Opera. Additionally she has been seen as the Countess Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Micaëla in *Carmen*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, and the title role of Suor Angelica. She revisits the role of Leonore in *Il trovatore* with Roanoke Opera in the upcoming 2011-2012 season.

On the concert stage, Ms. Briggs has performed Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and *Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Villa-Lobo's *Bachianas Brasileiras*, Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise*, Verdi's *Requiem* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* and the opening night Gala Concert with Oakland East Bay Symphony, Hanna in scenes from *The Merry Widow* with Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Samuel Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the Marin Theater Company and Hailstork's *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes* with the San Antonio Symphony. She has been the featured soloist with the Symphony Parnassus, "The Wondrous Sounds of Christmas" at the San Francisco Symphony, "Hope Briggs and Friends: A Musical Valentine" at San Francisco's Herbst Theater and the World Premiere of Marion J. Caffey's "Three Mo' Divas."

As a gifted recitalist Ms. Briggs has performed for African-Americans for Los Angeles Opera, Madewood Music Festival, Afrosolo Music Festival at the Yerba Buena Performing Arts Center, Concerts at the Abbey in Seattle and Caio Melissa in Spoleto, Italy. She has had the honor of performing for Ms. Jessye Norman at Alliance Française Trophée des Arts Gala and Rev. Billy Graham.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards which include: National Finalist in Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Metropolitan Opera International Vocal Competition Award, the Encouragement Award from the Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation, Marion Anderson Historical Society Scholar, and study grants from the Opera Buffs of California and the Barkley Fund.

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Critical Acclaim



San Francisco Opera – Doktor Faust

“In her company debut, as the Duchess, soprano Hope Briggs was stellar, delivering one of the evening’s highlights with her lusciously intoned, lovelorn aria.”

- Opera News

“Soprano Hope Briggs made an impressive company debut as the Duchess, singing with luscious tone in the opera’s lyrical passages.”

-San Francisco Chronicle

“In her debut, the soprano Hope Briggs yielded a luscious Duchess of Parma.”

-Financial Times

“The opera is well-cast throughout, with standouts including Hope Briggs as Duchess of Parma.”

-The Contra Costa Times

“The San Francisco Opera debut of Hope Briggs (Duchess of Parma) was nothing short of sensational. The young soprano’s vibrant, vital voice has a presence that few

singers can match.”

- San Francisco Classical Voice

Festival Opera of Walnut Creek – Il trovatore

“One singer who set her own course was soprano Hope Briggs, who gave a fine performance as Leonora. Her strategy was to deliver Verdi’s music in full diva fashion – her vocal tone at once stately and voluptuous, her carriage commanding...through the depth and beauty of her singing. The expansive phrases of the Act I aria “Tacea la notte placida” sounded shapely and ardent, and the Act 4 showpiece, “D’mor sull’ali rosee: found her at her finest.”

- San Francisco Chronicle

“Soprano Hope Briggs is nothing short of phenomenal. She has the gifts to achieve greatness. Indeed, the lirico-spinto vocal styling, stage presence and credible gestures – at once heroic yet vulnerable, assertive, yet yielding warmly to love. But the voice! The lovely timbre that fills the Hofmann Theatre, the crescendos, and the cabaletta that quicken any Verdian’s heart. There’s agility, there’s lucid enunciation of the Italian. And she hit the pitches spot on.”

- artssf.com

Tulsa Opera – Porgy and Bess

“Hope Briggs brings a religious fervor to Serena — even her funeral lament, “My Man’s Gone Now,” is sung not as a dirge but as if the mournful words contain a hint of hope.”

- Tulsa World

Nevada Opera - Aida

“The acquisition of up-and-coming soprano Hope Briggs is an acquisition made in heaven. Briggs sings magnificently and brings magnetism, majesty and considerable magic to Verdi’s Ethiopian princess...There’s not a moment when Briggs’ singing does not thrill. Her Act III aria, “O cieli azzurri” is regal in tone, passionate in demeanor, and a sensation of vocal agility. There’s no reason why Briggs should not become a major star on the international opera scene. She alone is worth a trip to Nevada Opera’s current encounter with Aida.”

- Nevada Events – Theater Reviews



Festival Opera of Walnut Creek – Un ballo in maschera

“Soprano Hope Briggs turned in a powerhouse performance marked by strong clean vocalism and emotional transparency. The role calls for both tonal strength and limpid clarity, and Briggs provided both...never more arrestingly than in her Act 3 aria, “Morro, ma prima in grazia.”

-San Francisco Chronicle

“...transcendent singing that would have made any international opera house proud. Soprano Hope Briggs a youthful and consummate singer, easily bringing forth a beautiful and commanding sound...” “Morro, ma prima ingrazia” was sung with great conviction and tragic feeling. Briggs also vocally set out her character’s many moods throughout the drama...a unique blend of musicianship and dramatic sense that characterize the best of opera.”

- San Francisco Classical Voice

Opera San Jose – Don Giovanni

“Hope Briggs’ Donna Elvira was perhaps the most fully developed character in this production of Don Giovanni. Briggs’ capably brought out both the blazing fury of the role as well as her continuing love for the womanizer. She conveyed full gamut of emotions with conviction and moving honesty. Briggs paced herself expertly matching vocal purity and dramatic intensity.”

- Le Concertographie

“The company came up with a terrific Donna Elvira in East Coast soprano Hope Briggs. Briggs’ strong personality dominates her scenes, blending ire and fire with the usual whimpering about being abandoned. Her tour-de-force aria of betrayal, “Mi tradi:, delivered in a ringing dramatic soprano voice with excellent control was a high point.”

- San Jose Mercury News

“Hope Briggs made a moving, noble Donna Elvira and exhibited a rich, tightly focused tone that capably handled the widely varied vocal writing. Fluid and accurate in the rapid passage work, filling the soaring vocal line with legato and shapely phrases. Briggs’ handled the role effortlessly and fearlessly,”

- San Jose Living

Oakland East Bay Symphony – Opening Night Gala

“...a singer unafraid to make a large, energetic statement, and able to back that up with commanding technique and smooth, eloquent phrasing. All that, and she holds the stage like a true diva. “Tacea la notte placida” from Verdi’s “Il Trovatore” was both voluptuous and pure-voiced. The opening phrases were shaped with eloquent directness. Briggs then brought the aria to ever-greater heights of intensity and emotional fluency.”

- San Francisco Chronicle

Suggested Repertoire

Bizet	Carmen	Micaëla
Busoni	Doktor Faust	Duchess of Parma
Gershwin	Porgy and Bess	Bess
	Porgy and Bess	Serena
Gounod	Faust	Marguerite
Mozart	Così fan tutte	Fiordiligi
	Die Zauberflöte	Erste Dame
	Don Giovanni	Donna Anna
	Don Giovanni	Donna Elvira
	Idomeneo	Elettra
Puccini	La Bohème	Mimi
	Turandot	Liù
	Suor Angelica	Suor Angelica
Strauss J.	Die Fledermaus	Rosalinda
Verdi	Aida	Aida
	La Forza del Destino	Leonora
	Il Trovatore	Leonora
	Un Ballo in Maschera	Amelia

Orchestral Repertoire

Barber	Knoxville: Summer of 1915
Dvorak	Stabat Mater
Mendelssohn	Elijah
	Psalm 120
Mozart	Coronation Mass
	Requiem
Verdi	Requiem
Villa-Lobos	Bachianas Brasilieras No. 5
Vivaldi	Gloria