

SHARON AZRIELI PEREZ

Soprano

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BACKGROUND BIOGRAPHY

Sharon Azrieli Perez's rich spinto soprano has been heard to great acclaim across the globe, from New York to Tokyo, and from Tel Aviv to her native Montreal. From her debut as Juliette in Roméo et Juliette to recent portrayals of Verdi heroines Aida and Leonora, (Il Trovatore) Azrieli Perez has been deemed "utterly charming" (Sarasota Herald Tribune) and praised for her "exceedingly beautiful voice, full of feeling" (Ha'aretz).

In recent years, aside from her growing repertoire of great French heroines; Sharon has, under the tutelage of Bill Schuman in New York, been hailed as the next true Verdiana. She received glowing reviews for her Verdi Requiem, and for her Aida: "Sharon Azrieli Perez sang the title role with an amazing voice that expressed the very essence of love, anguish and self-sacrifice" (Ontario Arts Review).

Leading operatic roles have included Juliette in Roméo et Juliette and Mimi in La Bohème for the Canadian Opera Company; Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro with Sarasota Opera; Nedda in I Pagliacci with the New York Opera Festival; Elvira in Don Giovanni with Vermont Opera Festival; and Liu in Turandot with the New Israel Opera. Of her Laurette in Le Docteur Miracle with L'Opéra Français de New York, Andrew Porter of The New Yorker hailed her as a "mistress of merry inflections, piquant phrasing and pointed words." In 1994, she had the great honour of covering Mirella Freni as Adrienne Lecouvreur with L'Opéra Bastille in Paris.

Sharon has been heard extensively around the world, performing with many symphony orchestras including the Jerusalem Symphony, the Tokyo Symphony, the McGill Chamber Orchestra, the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, the National Orchestra of Canada. She has performed Mahler's 2nd and 4th and 8th Symphonies, Dvořák's Stabat Mater; Beethoven's Mass in C Minor and the 9th Symphony and Rossini's Stabat Mater and Samuel Barber's Knoxville Summer of 1915 with the Israel Cameri Orchestra. Sharon recorded Mozart's rarely performed concert aria "Ch'io mi scordi di te" with the McGill Chamber Orchestra, as well as songs by Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky. Sharon has worked as a Cantor in both New York and Montreal. She has also performed in many Cantorial concerts, with L'Orchestre Interculturel de Montréal, and the group OktoEcho, among others. Sharon's repertoire also includes a special concert of "Forbidden Music". She sang the world premiere performances of works by living Israeli composers Ofer Ben-Amots and Tzvi Avni with the Israel Chamber

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Orchestra in Tel Aviv. Her solo concert in 2012 at Montreal's Rialto Theatre featured Sephardic songs, music by French-Jewish composers of the 19th century, and a world premiere of Israeli Folk songs that had been arranged by famous Jewish composers such as Honegger, Copland, Weill, and Dessau. A highlight of Sharon's 2014 season is the world premiere of The Esther Diaries with the McGill Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Boris Brott and Mozart Requiem in Tel Aviv. For her upcoming event, Sharon will perform La Boheme by Giacomo Puccini, produced by New Jersey Verismo Opera as Mimi. In spring 2015, Azrieli Perez will perform in Bernstein's Kaddish at the Vatican as well as completing several recordings with Michael Steven Mercurio.

The recipient of numerous awards including the Metropolitan Opera Competition District Winner and Study Grant, the Pavarotti Competition and the Jarmilla Novotna Competition, Sharon was honoured by the Apollo Agency in Montreal in 2012 for her contribution to the Canadian cultural and artistic world. Sharon is a graduate of Vassar College, Parsons School of Design, the Juilliard School, and l'Université de Montréal. She speaks fluent French, Italian, Hebrew and Spanish.