



BARBARA FRIS soprano



BARBARA FRIS soprano

Barbara Fris is a Canadian soprano who performs as an opera singer, concert artist, and recitalist. She specializes in opera and classical symphonic works for voice, having performed across Canada, in Europe and the United States where she also has sung a wide range of works that include operettas, musical theatre, light classics, lieder and art songs.

BARBARA FRIS soprano

63 Herron Avenue, Toronto, ON
Canada M1L 4V5

T (001) 750-9530

barbara@barbarafris.com

www.barbarafris.com



Barbara Fris | Soprano



Barbara Fris • 63 Herron Avenue, Toronto, ON Canada M1L 4V5
T (001) 416-750-9530 • barbara@barbarafris.com • www.barbarafris.com



Barbara Fris SOPRANO (HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA)

THIS SEASON Recitals at Heliconian Hall, Clairlea Presbyterian Church, and Houses of Providence (Scarborough).

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS She has appeared in most of the major Canadian opera houses and throughout the United States and Europe, has sung with orchestras across Canada in a wide array of oratorio and concert repertoire, and was declared "*one of Toronto's most artistic, creative and inspiring women*" by the Luminato Festival. She has given a Royal Command Performance for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at the opening of Science North (Sudbury) and, as Guest Artist at the '*International Year of the Senior Citizen*' event sponsored by the City of Toronto, her outdoor concert attracted a capacity crowd at Nathan Philips Square where 15,000+ listeners heard her critically acclaimed Mimi from *La Bohème*. She is the recipient of several prestigious Canada Council and Nova Scotia Talent Trust

Awards, was awarded the Grand Prize at the 1989 *International Bel Canto Voice Competition* in Chicago and has been a prizewinner at other competitions including the 3rd *Annual Luciano Pavarotti Competition* in Philadelphia, the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Great Lakes District) in Toronto and the MacAllister Voice Competition in Indianapolis.

Mimi in *La bohème* marked the singer's opera début at the Courtney Summer Music Festival (1982). Her professional career and main-stage opera début was launched in 1984 with her portrayal of Clorinda (*La Cenerentola*) with the Calgary Opera. Re-engagements with the Calgary Opera and performances with the Manitoba Opera and Edmonton Opera followed.

Fris first attracted national attention when she won the *International Bel Canto Foundation Voice Competition* (Chicago, Illinois) in 1989. In that same year, she was also a Canadian winner and international finalist in the 3rd *Annual International Luciano Pavarotti Voice Competition*, resulting in engagements for U.S. audiences in Chicago, Illinois, Philadelphia, and New York City. Her Italian début as Amelia (*Simon Boccanegra*) at the Teatro dei Rozzi, Siena, Italy and re-engagements at the Luino Italia Summer Music Festival as Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*) followed. In 1990, Fris performed the world-premiere of Patricia Blomfield Holt's "*A Song of Darkness and Light*". Since then, she has gone on to become one of Canada's most versatile lyric-spinto sopranos active today, captivating audiences with her evocative portrayals of opera heroines, her concert performances and recitals.

Roles she has played include Liù in *Turandot*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Zerlina and Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly*, Angelica in *Suor Angelica*, Violetta in *La traviata*, Marguerite in *Faust*, the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Marenka in *The Bartered Bride*, The Mother in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and Mimi and Musetta in *La bohème*. Her vast opera repertoire also includes Nedda in *Pagliacci*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Despina in *Così fan tutte*, Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Micaëla in *Carmen*, Antonia in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, and Desdemona in *Otello*. Fris is also known for her portrayals of Angelina in *Trial by Jury*, Mabel in *Pirates of Penzance*, the title role in *Guiditta*, and Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow*, always to critical and audience acclaim.

Fris has been praised by the Edmonton Journal "...sings with a sensuous warmth, great reserves of power and emotional expressiveness." "Ms. Fris possesses a gorgeous vocal instrument with illuminating beauty of tone ... "a songstress that marries her expressive lyricism with exemplary diction and compelling acting." *Chronicle Herald* (Halifax). "Ms. Fris' voice is full of vocal colours well matched to intensely subjective moods—evocative and breath-taking". *Halifax Mailstar*. The CBC has broadcast Ms Fris' performances in concerts, with festivals and regional orchestras across Canada, nationally in radio and television. Her other television credits include appearances on CTV, CITY and Global networks in their nationally broadcast news features.

Want to know more? Visit: www.barbarafris.com and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Fris.

AT THE REQUEST OF THE ARTIST, PLEASE DO NOT ALTER THE ABOVE MATERIAL
WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT

Recent Performance Highlights

Recital Tour / *Various Presenters*

McMichael Art Gallery • Kleinburg, ON
Halton Hills Cultural Centre • Georgetown, ON
St. George's Church • Sibbald Point, ON
Heliconian Hall • Yorkville, ON
Houses of Providence • Scarborough, ON

Solo Recital / *Oxfam Canada*

Walter Hall • Toronto, ON

Solo Recital / *Presbyterian Church of Canada*

Clairlea Presbyterian Church • Scarborough, ON

Concert / *The Kiwanis Club of Toronto*

Imperial Room, Royal York Hotel • Toronto, ON

Collaborative Recital / *Heliconian Subscription Music Series*

Heliconian Hall • Toronto, ON

Narrator / *The Birthday Series*

Heliconian Hall • Yorkville, ON