

BARBARA SHIRVIS

CURRICULUM VITAE

BarbaraShirvis@gmail.com

www.WAVS.info

EDUCATION

Master of Music: Vocal Performance, 1988

Manhattan School of Music – New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts: Vocal Performance, 1984

University of South Florida – Tampa, FL

Associate of Arts: Vocal Performance, 1980

St Petersburg College – Clearwater, FL

PRINCIPLE VOICE TEACHERS

Arthur Levy: Professor of Voice, Mannes School of Music The New School

Neil Semer: Teacher of Voice, Neil Semer Vocal Institute

Beverley Peck Johnson: Professor of Voice, The Julliard School

Carolina Segrera: Teacher of Voice

VOICE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Independent Voice Teacher, Whole Arts Voice Studio, 1999 – present

Drawing upon over three decades of experience as a professional singer as well as constant study of respected pedagogical resources, I teach a traditional singing technique after the International standard, which is applicable to all styles of music and has been successfully used for centuries. This includes reliable breath-management, clean initiation of tone and awareness of body alignment and sensations. These elements together insure healthy and safe singing, increase vocal stamina, range and agility, and facilitate expression and interpretation. In addition, I teach the fundamentals of professionalism such as preparation, presentation and what is expected of singers by conductors, directors, coaches and other music professionals. My extensive knowledge of the classical and musical theatre vocal repertoire benefits my students in the areas of

repertoire selection, diction in English and foreign languages, and performance practices. I also produce twice yearly recitals and monthly studio classes which provide valuable performance experience for my private students. Finally, I offer guidance in a systematic approach to efficient practicing for a maximum and rapid improvement.

Baldwin Wallace University, April 2020

Substitute teacher of applied voice. (hired, but canceled due to the pandemic)

Mannes School of Music The New School, 2016-present

Permanent substitute teacher of applied voice.

Pine Mountain Music Festival, 2011

Master Class – Coached young artist apprentices in presentation, performance practices and character analysis, as well as diction, musical style, and vocal production.

Toledo Opera, 2006 and 2009

Taught voice lessons to company chorus members.

University of South Florida, 2005

Master Class – Coached selected voice students in presentation, performance practices and character analysis, as well as diction, musical style and vocal production.

Northeastern Illinois University, 2004

Master Class – Coached selected voice students in presentation, performance practices and character analysis, as well as diction, musical style and vocal production.

ADJUDICATION

NATS Eastern Regionals at Westminster Choir College	2020
GPNATS (Greater Philadelphia) at Temple University	2019
Tri-County Concerts at West Chester University	2018
SALT's Got Talent!	2018
SALT's Got Talent!	2017
West Chester University Concerto Competition	2015

PERFORMANCE AWARDS AND HONORS

Artist of the Year	Syracuse Opera	1999
Career Study Grant	Sullivan Foundation	1996
Performance Award	Liederkrantz Foundation	1993
Weill Recital Winner	Artists International	1990

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Operatic Roles

Mimi	LA BOHEME	Gulf Coast Opera
Mimi	LA BOHEME	West Virginia Symphony
Musetta	LA BOHEME	Syracuse Opera
Micaela	CARMEN	Florentine Opera
Micaela	CARMEN	New York City Opera
Fiordiligi	COSI FAN TUTTE	Arizona Opera
Fiordiligi	COSI FAN TUTTE	Berkshire Opera
Fiordiligi	COSI FAN TUTTE	Jacksonville Symphony
Fiordiligi	COSI FAN TUTTE	San Diego Opera
Rosalinde	DIE FLEDERMAUS	Boston Lyric Opera
Rosalinde	DIE FLEDERMAUS	Knoxville Opera
Rosalinde	DIE FLEDERMAUS	Hawaii Opera Theatre
Rosalinde	DIE FLEDERMAUS	Minnesota Orchestra
Sophie	DER ROSENKAVALIER	Hawaii Opera Theatre
Sophie	DER ROSENKAVALIER	New York City Opera
Donna Anna	DON GIOVANNI	Bardovan Opera House
Donna Elvira	DON GIOVANNI	Berkshire Opera
Donna Elvira	DON GIOVANNI	Jacksonville Symphony
Donna Elvira	DON GIOVANNI	Syracuse Opera
Tatyana	EUGENE ONEGIN	Cleveland Opera
Alice Ford	FALSTAFF	New Jersey Opera Theatre
Alice Ford	FALSTAFF	Toledo Opera
Nannetta	FALSTAFF	West Virginia Symphony
Josephine	H.M.S. PINAFORE	New York City Opera
Nedda	I PAGLIACCI	Toledo Opera
Cio Cio San	MADAMA BUTTERFLY	Aspen Music Festival
Cio Cio San	MADAMA BUTTERFLY	Eastern Music Festival
Cio Cio San	MADAMA BUTTERFLY	New Jersey Symphony
Cio Cio San	MADAMA BUTTERFLY	Utah Opera
Pamina	THE MAGIC FLUTE	New York City Opera
Pamina	THE MAGIC FLUTE	Syracuse Opera
Manon	MANON LESCAUT	Chautauqua Opera
Yum Yum	THE MIKADO	New York City Opera
Yum Yum	THE MIKADO	Opera Pacific
La Contessa	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	Jacksonville Symphony
La Contessa	LE NOZZE DI FIGARO	North Carolina Symphony

Mabel	PIRATES OF PENZANCE	Augusta Opera
Desdemona	OTELLO	Jacksonville Symphony
Desdemona	OTELLO	Minnesota Orchestra
Leila	PECHEURS DE PERLES	Kentucky Opera
Gilda	RIGOLETTO	Syracuse Opera
Johanna	ROCKLAND	Pine Mtn Music Festival
Juliette	ROMEO ET JULIETTE	Toledo Opera
Susanna	SUSANNA'S SECRET	Jacksonville Symphony
Lucy	THE TELEPHONE	Jacksonville Symphony
Tosca	TOSCA	Minnesota Orchestra
Tosca	TOSCA	New Jersey Symphony
Tosca	TOSCA	West Virginia Symphony
Violetta	LA TRAVIATA	Syracuse Opera
Liu	TURANDOT	Kentucky Opera
Liu	TURANDOT	Jacksonville Symphony
Liu	TURANDOT	New Jersey Opera Theatre

Symphonies and Concerts

Bach, <i>B Minor Mass</i>	First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia
Barber, <i>Knoxville, Summer of 1915</i>	Jacksonville Symphony
Beethoven, <i>Symphony 9, "Ode to Joy"</i>	Amarillo Symphony
Beethoven, <i>Symphony 9, "Ode to Joy"</i>	Brevard Music Festival
Beethoven, <i>Symphony 9, "Ode to Joy"</i>	New Jersey Symphony
Beethoven, <i>Symphony 9, "Ode to Joy"</i>	North Carolina Symphony
Beethoven, <i>Symphony 9, "Ode to Joy"</i>	Phoenix Symphony
Beethoven, <i>Symphony 9, "Ode to Joy"</i>	Rochester Philharmonic
Beethoven, <i>Symphony 9, "Ode to Joy"</i>	Spokane Symphony
Beethoven, <i>Symphony 9, "Ode to Joy"</i>	Wichita Symphony
Beethoven, <i>Symphony 9, "Ode to Joy"</i>	Youngstown Symphony
Beethoven, <i>"Ah, Perfido!"</i>	Amarillo Symphony
Beethoven, <i>"Ah, Perfido!"</i>	North Carolina Symphony
Brahms, <i>Requiem</i>	Colorado Music Festival
Brahms, <i>Requiem</i>	Jacksonville Symphony
Brahms, <i>Requiem</i>	New Mexico Symphony
Brahms, <i>Requiem</i>	Highland Park Presbyterian, Dallas
Britten, <i>War Requiem</i>	American Choral Directors Association
Britten, <i>War Requiem</i>	Lehigh University
Britten, <i>War Requiem</i>	Jacksonville Symphony
Dvorak, <i>Requiem</i>	Florida Orchestra
Janacek, <i>Glagolitic Mass</i>	New Mexico Symphony
Handel, <i>Messiah</i>	Jacksonville Symphony
Handel, <i>Messiah</i>	Kimmel Center, Verizon Hall
Handel, <i>Messiah</i>	Pacific Symphony

Haydn, <i>Creation</i>	Rochester Philharmonic
Mahler, <i>Symphony 2, "Creation"</i>	Anchorage Symphony
Mahler, <i>Symphony 2, "Creation"</i>	Syracuse Symphony
Mahler, <i>Symphony 4</i>	Jacksonville Symphony
Mendelssohn, <i>Elijah</i>	Jacksonville Symphony
Mendelssohn, <i>Symphony 2, "Lobegesang"</i>	Dallas Symphony Orchestra
Mozart, <i>Requiem</i>	Dallas Symphony Orchestra
Mozart, <i>Requiem</i>	Jacksonville Symphony
Orff, <i>Carmina Burana</i>	Rochester Philharmonic
Poulenc, <i>Gloria</i>	Bucks County Choral Society
Poulenc, <i>Gloria</i>	New Mexico Symphony
Poulenc, <i>Stabat Mater</i>	Dallas Symphony Orchestra
Straus, <i>Vier Letzte Lieder</i>	North Carolina Symphony
Vaughan Williams, <i>Serenade to Music</i>	Amarillo Symphony
Vaughan Williams, <i>Serenade to Music</i>	Wichita Symphony
Verdi, <i>Requiem</i>	Bucks County Choral Society
Verdi, <i>Requiem</i>	West Virginia Symphony
Verdi, <i>Requiem</i>	Wichita Symphony
"Christmas Concert"	Dallas Symphony Orchestra
"Faust and Furious"	Opera Roanoke
"Italian Aria Concert"	Boston Landmarks Orchestra
"Opera in the Parks"	Madison Opera

Recitals

Calvary Lutheran Church	<i>American Celebration</i>
Calvary Lutheran Church	<i>Bellisimo Broadway</i>
Calvary Lutheran Church	<i>Hearts Afire</i>
Holy Trinity	<i>Liebeslieder Walzer</i>
Lyric Fest	Cabaret Songs
Lyric Fest	<i>I Love My Love</i>
Lyric Fest	<i>Last Songs</i>
Lyric Fest	<i>Love with a Twist</i>
Lyric Fest	<i>Myth and Muse</i>
Lyric Fest	<i>Night and Day</i>
Roanoke Opera Recital Series	<i>Bellisimo Broadway</i>
Tower Arts Series	<i>Hearts Afire</i>

CONDUCTORS (selected, alphabetical)

Yves Abel, Scott Bergeson, Joseph Colaneri, Grant Cooper, David Davidson, John DeMain, Randall Craig Fleischer, Mark Flint, Hal France, Paul Gemignani, Patricia Handy, Daniel Hege, Christopher Keene, Jacques LaCombe, Andrew Litton, Grant Llewellyn, Thomas Lloyd, Keith Lockhart, George Manahan, Bobby McFerrin, Joseph Mechavich, Fabio Mechetti, James Mena,

Joseph Rescigno, Joel Revzen, Alexander Sander, Christopher Seaman, Louis Salemno, Gary Wedow, Steven White, Christopher Wilkins, David Zinman

DIRECTORS (selected, alphabetical)

James Billings, Garnett Bruce, Frank Corsaro, Scott Ellis, David Gately, Vernon Hartman, John Lehmeier, Jay Lesenger, Rhoda Levine, Joshua Major, Leon Major, Richard McKee, Jonathan Miller, Robert Neu, A. Scott Perry, Albert Sherman, Susan Stroman, Mark Verzatt

COACHES (selected, alphabetical)

Ron Cappon, Nico Castel, Robert Cowart, Steven Crawford, Richard Cross, Joan Dornemann, Harold Evans, Thomas Grubb, John Keene, Kathryn LaBouff, Dan Smith, David Triestram, Laura Ward, Gary WEDow, Brian Zeger

COLLEAGUES (selected, alphabetical)

John Absalom, Debby Boone, Lawrence Brownlee, Joyce Castle, Richard Clement, Dominic Cossa, Stephen Costello, Richard Cross, Margaret Cusack, Mary Dunleavy, Suzanne DuPlantis, Renee Fleming, Alan Glassman, Christine Goerke, Amy Johnson, Margaret Lattimore, Timothy LeFevre, Lise Lindstrom, Francois Loup, Nancy Allen Lundy, Richard McKee, Warren Mok, Paula Murrihy, Maureen O'Flynn, Jan Opalach, Brian Osawa, John Osborn, Louis Otey, Franco Pomponi, Stephen Powell, Samuel Ramey, Regina Resnik, Randall Scarlata, Marietta Simpson, Roy C. Smith, William Stone, Sharon Sweet, Carl Tanner, Richard Troxell, Mark Walters, Sheryl Woods

TELECAST/BROADCAST (selected)

“Live from Lincoln Center” *A Little Night Music* (Mrs. Anderssen) by Steven Sondheim

New York City Opera, November 7, 1990

KBYU *Madama Butterfly* (Cio Cio San) by Giacomo Puccini, Utah Opera, 2008

WUNC *Vier Letzte Lieder* by R. Strauss, “*Ah, Perfido!*” by Beethoven

North Carolina Symphony, March 2012

INTERVIEWS/PUBLICATIONS (selected)

Lyric Fest Blog, February 2014, “Love with a Twist” interview

Classical Singer Magazine, February 2011, “Balancing Act” by Greg Wexberg

Deseret News, October 2008, Utah Opera *Madama Butterfly* interview

Louisville Courier-Journal, January 2007, “Family Affair” by Andrew Adler

LANGUAGES

ITALIAN: Basic speaking/reading; extensive study in diction, IPA

GERMAN: Basic speaking/reading; extensive study in diction, IPA

FRENCH: Basic speaking/reading; extensive study in diction, IPA

ENGLISH: Native language; extensive study in diction, IPA

AFFILIATIONS

National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)

American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA)

Speakeasy Cooperative

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Suzanne DuPlantis, Co-founding Director, Lyric Fest

www.lyricfest.org

Robert Neu, Senior Vice President of Artistic Planning, Colorado Symphony

RNeu@ColoradoSymphony.org

Maestro Steven White, Metropolitan Opera Conductor

Semprecolcanto@gmail.com

Selected Reviews

CARMEN – *Florentine Opera*

“Shirvis showed an unusually big, colorful tone for Micaela, delivered her [aria] charmingly and proved a lovely visual presence throughout.” *Opera News*

DIE FLEDERMAUS – *Boston Lyric Opera*

“An authentic blonde beauty, tall and curvaceous, Barbara Shirvis was a strong Rosalinde, her tone solid and evenly produced throughout its range. Shirvis served up the Czardas with aplomb and her dialogue was tart and neatly delivered.” *Opera News*

“Barbara Shirvis showed estimable vocal qualities and she knows how to act.” *The Boston Globe*

TURANDOT – *Jacksonville Symphony*

“Barbara Shirvis as Liu, a slave girl in love with Calaf, made rewarding choices as well. Never descending into self-indulgence, her performance was humble to the point of pathos. Her floated tones - an effective contrast to Turandot’s laser delivery - projected easily in the large theatre space.” *Donald Westwood, EU Jacksonville*

COSI FAN TUTTE – *Berkshire Opera*

The musical highlight of the performance was her aria of remorse, ‘Per pieta’, which she sang with gorgeous tone, technical security, and a touching vulnerability.” *The Boston Globe*

“Barbara Shirvis was superb as Fiordiligi, negotiating the demanding ‘Come Scoglio’ with heroic confidence and character.” *Springfield Union News*

“A highlight of Act I was Shirvis’ ‘Come scoglio’, whose virtuoso demands were met head-on by the strong-voiced Shirvis.” *Times Union*

EUGENE ONEGIN -*Cleveland Opera*

“...the luminous Barbara Shirvis shed such charismatic light on the character’s budding ardor. She applied her clear, agile lyric soprano to the urgent lines of the crucial ‘Letter Scene’ as if living in the arduous experience.” *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

“The occasion’s chief ornament is Barbara Shirvis, whose Tatyana grows from an initial convincing moody girlishness to a final persuasive maturity with remarkable uncaricatured understatement. Moreover, she

possesses a supple, rich soprano that ranges from a less than overpowering, but substantial forcefulness, to encompass some warm, delicately floated pianissimos. The celebrated Letter Scene, in which the girl composes her declaration of love, is an extended one-act drama of its own, whose technically arduous demands Shirvis invests with an affecting, uncloying emotionality. *Free Times (Ohio)*

ROMEO ET JULIETTE - *Toledo Opera*

“Undisputed star of this case is soprano Barbara Shirvis, whose supple, honeyed, and many timbred voice brought Juliette to life – and later, of course, to death – with grace and unselfconscious agility. Her acting was convincing. Those who saw last year’s production of *Pagliacci* will no doubt remember her; this year’s audience will, too.” *Toledo Blade*

“Barbara Shirvis added yet another star to her roster of heroines. Her Juliette was sung with a warm, lyric soprano voice that soared to the heights the role requires, both musically and dramatically. Her potion aria was a moving counterpart to Act I’s ‘Je veux vivre’, which was sung exquisitely in tune and with delicate phrasing.” *Opera News*

I PAGLIACCI – *Toledo Opera*

“...her warm, substantial lyric soprano, well suited to Nedda, soared through her aria. She sang with passionate nuance in her duet with Silvio.” *Opera News*

NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY

“Following the Beethoven symphony, soprano Barbara Shirvis sang her concert aria, ‘Ah, Perfido!’, a 15-minute operatic-style scene in which a woman alternately curses and entreats her faithless lover. Shirvis made believable distinctions of the varying emotions, her voice clear and strong, especially appealing in the lower register and in the quieter sections... Ending the program, after the Strauss tone poem, was that composer’s gorgeous, melancholic ‘Four Last Songs’ (more atypical programming order). Shirvis interpreted these autumnal musings about the end of life with delicacy and great feeling.” *Roy C. Dicks, North Carolina News Observer*

BRAHMS REQUIEM – *Jacksonville Symphony*

“Guest soprano Barbara Shirvis took center stage in the fifth movement, and her round, dark sound was a perfect partner to the Requiem’s reliance on the middle voices of the chorus and on the low strings. ‘I will comfort you as one comforted by his mother’ sounded entirely believable when expressed in her effortless placement and embracing voice.” *Jacksonville Times Union*

POULENC GLORIA – *Dallas Symphony Chorus*

“A striking guest was soprano Barbara Shirvis, whose voice is beautiful and at ease over a wide range.” *Dalla Morning News*

“Soprano soloist Barbara Shirvis, who possesses a glorious voice that we would love to hear more of.” *Star-Telegram*

MESSIAH – *Pacific Symphony*

“Most effective of the vocal soloist was Barbara Shirvis, a solid musician of strong sound and emotional projection.” *Los Angeles Times*

“Barbara Shirvis Sang the soprano solos clearly and gracefully, her trills and grace notes receiving a particular touch of finesse.” *Orange County Register*