

MEGAN BARRERA, LYRIC SOPRANO

Cuban-Puerto Rican soprano Megan Barrera is a native of Miami Florida, and is an active performer of both opera and concert repertoire. This year Ms. Barrera was the second prizewinner of the Gabriela Beňačková International Vocal Competition in the Czech Republic. In 2018, Ms. Barrera was the first prizewinner of the Certamen Nuevas Voces Ciudad de Sevilla, Spain. She was also a prizewinner of the Concorso Lirico Premio Koliqi in Milan, Italy and the International Vissi D'arte Competition in the Czech Republic. In 2017, Ms. Barrera was the first prizewinner of the Saint Petersburg Opera Guild Competition in Florida and the Rochester Oratorio Society Classical Idol Competition in New York. In 2016, Ms. Barrera was awarded the Munday Encouragement Award at the Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition. Ms. Barrera has also been awarded a grant from the Anna Sosenko Assist Trust.

Ms. Barrera was recently seen and given great acclaim in recital with pianist Francisco Soriano in Festival de Cádiz, Spain. This past summer Ms. Barrera toured a Music of the Americas Recital with pianist, Dr. João Paulo Casarotti. They performed in London, Lisbon, and different cities in Brazil. Ms. Barrera also made her Alhambra Orchestra debut in Miami, FL, and she was recently heard as one of the fairies in the Miami City Ballet Balanchine's production of A Midsummer Nights Dream.

In 2020, she will make her debut with Divadlo J.K. Tyla Plzni, Czech Republic, singing Micaëla in Carmen. Ms. Barrera will also get to sing the four heroines in Offenbach's Les contes d'Hoffmann with Opéra Louisiane. Special mention deserves her next debut at the Teatro de la Maestranza of Seville in La Traviata, as the winner of the Nuevas Voces Certamen prize, which also includes concerts with Orquesta Ciudad de Granada and Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla. In 2021, Ms. Barrera will also debut with Thüringen Philharmonic in Germany and Kraków Philharmonic in Poland.

Ms. Barrera holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree and a Master of Music Degree from Louisiana State University where she was the recipient of a full tuition scholarship. She completed her Bachelor of Music Degree at the University of Miami where she was also a recipient of the Bertha Foster full tuition scholarship.



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OPERATIC REPERTOIRE

Barber:

Geraldine – *Hand of Bridge*
Vanessa – *Vanessa*

Bizet:

Micaëla – *Carmen*

Britten:

Miss Jessel – *The Turn of the Screw*

Catán:

Florencia Grimaldi – *Florencia en el Amazonas*

Donizetti:

Anna Bolena – *Anna Bolena*
Adina, Giannetta – *L'elisir d'amore*
Norina – *Don Pasquale*

Gounod:

Juliette – *Roméo et Juliette*
Marguerite – *Faust*

Lehar:

Hanna Glawari – *The Merry Widow*

Leoncavallo:

Nedda – *Pagliacci*

Mozart:

Contessa, Susanna – *Le nozze di Figaro*
Donna Anna – *Don Giovanni*
1st Lady, Pamina – *Die Zauberflöte*

Porter:

Lilli Vanessi – *Kiss Me, Kate*

Puccini:

Cio Cio San – *Madama Butterfly*
Mimi, Musetta – *La bohème*
Liù – *Turandot*
Tosca – *Tosca*

Romberg:

Marianne – *The New Moon*

Rossini:

Berta – *Il barbiere di Siviglia*

Verdi:

Desdemona – *Otello*
Violetta, Annina – *La traviata*

ORCHESTRAL/ORATORIO REPERTOIRE

Brahms:

Ein deutsches Requiem

Berg:

Sieben frühe Lieder

Beethoven:

9th Symphony

Britten:

War Requiem

Handel:

Messiah

Mendelssohn:

Elijah

Rossini:

Stabat Mater

Rutter:

Requiem

Verdi:

Requiem

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CONDUCTORS

Richard Hein
Michael Rossi
Michael Borowitz
Reginaldo Nascimento
Victor DeRenzi

Jay Dean
Joseph Rescigno
Carlos Riazuelo
Douglas Kinney Forst

OPERA HOUSES/THEATERS

Sarasota Opera
Florida Grand Opera
Natchez Festival of Music
Miami Lyric Opera
Opéra Louisiane
Wichita Grand Opera
Festival South Opera
Espacio Turina

Prague Philharmonic Rudolfinum
Vero Beach Opera
Palm Beach Symphony
Distilled Opera
Hispanic-American Lyric Theatre Castle Church
Wittenberg, Germany Miami City Ballet
Miami Music Festival
Ft. Lauderdale Operatic Works

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Micaëla in Carmen with Divadlo J.K. Tyla Plzni, Czech Republic (2020)
Four heroines in Les contes d'Hoffmann with Opéra Louisiane, USA (2020)
Concert with Aleutian Arts Council, Unalaska, USA (2020)
Annina in La traviata with Teatro de la Maestranza, Spain (2020)
Concert with Orquesta Ciudad de Granada (2020)
Concert with Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla (2020)
Concert with Thüringen Philharmonic Gotha-Eisenach, Germany (2021)
Concert with Kraków Philharmonic, Poland (2021)

REPRESENTATION

MIA Artists Management
Maritza Sori Pita +1 646 620 1313

Artists.BCN (exclusively in Spain)
Concha Alhambra +34 636 90 35 06

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REVIEWS

“La soprano estadounidense Megan Barrera ganó el año pasado el primer premio del certamen Nuevas Voces de Sevilla, un premio que ha impulsado su presencia en el Festival de Música Española de Cádiz en 2019. Con todo merecimiento. La cantante diseñó un programa de concierto para mostrar sus cualidades al completo y recibir el espaldarazo del público, que se lo otorgó con largueza y sinceridad. En la primera parte la soprano se mostró comedida en el gesto, si bien su generosa expresividad gestual se acompasó con la emoción transmitida en la interpretación de los Siete Lieder de Berg con su voz altamente vibrada...en las canciones de los Tres poemas de Turina...La cantante apoyó con sentido los cambios de carácter entre las canciones, especialmente con el animoso ímpetu en la inicial “Olas gigantes” y en los pasajes melismáticos posteriores. En la segunda parte el dúo musical interpretó piezas líricas. Sorprendió Megan Barrera con la escenificación a ritmo lento de “Esta es su carta” y la intensa pasión de la lectura musical de esta pieza...Dejó constancia no obstante la soprano del dominio dinámico y de la redondez de su voz en las notas sobreagudas. El amplio y gustoso incipit instrumental de Francisco Soriano a la “Canzone del salice y Ave María” de Otello creó el respetuoso ambiente que acogió este recitativo-aria, que precisa voces de soprano con espesor, como la de Megan Barrera. Ambos intérpretes disfrutaron en la propina “¡Sí, yo soy Cecilia Valdés”, de la zarzuela cubana homónima compuesta por Gonzalo Roig, cantada y bailada por Megan Barrera haciendo valer su origen cubano-puertorriqueño.” —**DIARIO Bahía de Cádiz**

Translation: “The American soprano Megan Barrera won the first prize last year in the Nueva Voces de Sevilla Vocal Competition, an award that has boosted her presence in the Spanish Music Festival of Cádiz in 2019, and with merit. The singer designed a concert program to show off all of her qualities, and she received full support from the audience at length with sincerity. In the first part the soprano was restrained in gesture, although her generous expressiveness was accompanied by the emotion transmitted in the interpretation of the Sieben Frühe Lieder of Berg with her highly vibrated voice ... in the songs of the Tres Poemas of Turina ... the singer strongly supported the changes of character between the songs, especially with the courageous momentum in the initial "Olas gigantes" and subsequent melismatic passages. In the second part, the musical duo performed lyrical pieces. Megan Barrera surprised me with the slow-paced staging and the intense passionate musical reading of "Esta es su carta"... it was noted that the soprano carries a great dynamic domain and the roundness of her voice continues throughout her upper register. Francisco Soriano's long and tasteful introduction to the “Canzone di Salice and Ave Maria” of Otello created the respectful atmosphere that hosted this recitative-aria, which requires full soprano voices, such as Megan Barrera. Both performers enjoyed the encore "¡Sí, yo soy Cecilia Valdés", of the homonymous Cuban zarzuela composed by Gonzalo Roig, sung and danced by Megan Barrera asserting her Cuban-Puerto Rican origin.”

“Pero fue la norteamericana de origen Cubano y portorriqueño Megan Barrera quien logró el favor del jurado, con un canto muy expresivo, amplia facilidad para modular y sorprendentes cambios de registro...la entonó una retorcida pieza de la ópera de Daniel Catán Florencia en el Amazonas.”—**El Correo de Andalucía**

Translation: But it was the Cuban Puerto Rican American Megan Barrera who won the favor of the judges, with very expressive singing, ample facility to modulate and surprising register changes...she sang a complicated piece from Daniel Catán’s opera Florencia en el Amazonas.

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REVIEWS (CONT.)

"As Berta, Megan Barrera was a scene stealer, her crotchety, sneezing persona consistently greeted by laughter. Barrera's voice was equally enchanting in her brief aria."—South Florida Classical Review 2017

"Megan Barrera, cantante local, brilló en su única aria, lo que le ganó merecidos aplausos."—**El Nuevo Herald**

Translation: "Megan Barrera, local singer, shined in her only aria, that won her well-deserved applause."

"Megan Barrera sang Donna Anna with an equally big, warmer voice that showed off the expansive top she demonstrated in her rendition of Cole Porter's "So In Love" during the opening-night concert. In "Or sai chi l'onore," she built admirably from the recitative into the indignant, vengeful outburst, and in "Non mi dir, bell'idol mio," the basic generosity of her voice was keenly evident...[a] fine singer...[who] earned huge ovations from the audience Sunday afternoon at curtain call." —**Palm Beach Arts Paper**

"Barrera, muy joven, tiene todas las cualidades para lograr una brillante carrera y fue muy ovacionada por el público por su entrega de la sufrida doña." —**El Nuevo Herald**

Translation: "Barrera, very young, has all the qualities to achieve a brilliant career and it was acclaimed by the public for her delivery of the suffering Donna."

"Soprano Megan Barrera, in her role as Norina, demonstrated an impressive range and great projection...her acting was colorful and she definitely brought great personality to her role." —**The Wichita Eagle**

