

## NORMA SHARP

Norma Sharp was born in Oklahoma and grew up in Arkansas City, Kansas. Soon after her graduation from Kansas University (her voice teachers were Marie and Joseph Wilkens), she received a German government grant allowing her to continue voice training in Germany, mainly with Helmut Melchert (Hamburg) and Peter Witsch (Cologne). After a beginner's year at the Cologne opera studio, she developed her repertoire in smaller German theaters (Regensburg, Augsburg, Karlsruhe). She has since been a free-lance opera and concert singer, appearing regularly at various European opera houses, concert halls and festivals.

Prof. Sharp began her professional career with Mozart (as **Fiordiligi** in *Così fan tutte*) and quickly gained a reputation as an outstanding Mozart singer. Her parts included **Pamina** (*Zauberflöte*), **Countess** (*Figaro*), **Donna Anna**, **Donna Elvira** (*Don Giovanni*), **Vitellia** (*Tito*). She was, however, also successful with other great female roles of the German repertoire, like the **Marschallin** (*Rosenkavalier*), **Countess** (*Capriccio*), **Arabella** (*Arabella*), **Agathe** (*Freischütz*), **Eva** (*Meistersinger*), **Elsa** (*Lohengrin*) and **Elisabeth** (*Tannhäuser*).

Norma Sharp has been a permanent guest at major European opera houses. Enclosed are some landmarks of her career:

**Karlsruhe** (Badisches Staatstheater): *Così fan tutte*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Hoffmanns Erzählungen*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, *Julius Cesar*.

**Frankfurt** (Städtische Bühnen): *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Capriccio*, *Falstaff*.

**Cologne**(Oper der Stadt): *Don Giovanni*, *Die Fledermaus*.

**Düsseldorf** (Deutsche Oper am Rhein): *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*.

**Hamburg** (Staatsoper): *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*.

**Berlin** (Deutsche Oper): *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, *The merry wives of Windsor*.

**Munich** (Bayerische Staatsoper): *Die Zauberflöte*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*, *Arabella*, *Peer Gynt*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

**Vienna** (Staatsoper): *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Her debut at the **Scala of Milan** was as *Countess* in "*Le nozze di Figaro*" under **Riccardo Muti**.

Further guest appearances were in Berlin (Deutsche Staatsoper), Dresden (Semperoper), Hannover, Stuttgart, Amsterdam, Antwerpen, Gent, Zürich, Basel, Bern, Geneva, Rome, Naples, Madrid, Glasgow, London, Paris, Prague und Budapest.

Norma Sharp appeared at the following European festivals:

**Bayreuther Festspiele:** Woglinde, Wood Bird (Der Ring des Nibelungen, P. Chereau / P. Boulez); Flower girl (Parsifal).

**Glyndebourne Festival:** Donna Anna (Don Giovanni).

**Ludwigsburger Schloßfestspiele:** Vitellia (Tito).

**Händel-Festspiele Karlsruhe:** Cleopatra (Julius Cesar), Esilena (Rodrigo), Cleofide (Poros), Armida (Rinaldo), Melissa (Pasticcio).

**Opera on television:** Die Zauberberge, Peer Gynt (Egk); Der Ring des Nibelungen, Tito; also several appearances in popular shows.

**Record productions:** Tales of Hoffmann (EMI), Peer Gynt (Orfeo), Der Ring des Nibelungen (Ariola), Tannhäuser (Moro), Faust-Szenen (EMI), Antike Dichtung im Spiegel der Musik (FSM).

In **song recitals**, Norma Sharp is especially brilliant in the German romantic repertoire (Schubert, Schumann, Dessoff, Jensen, Brahms). She has, however, also devoted much attention to the work of Mahler, Schönberg and Berg as well as of some contemporary composers i.e., Killmayer and Grunelius. Her regular piano partners are **Irwin Gage**, **Wilhelm von Grunelius** and **Wolfram Rieger**.

In **concerts** with grand orchestras with conductors, **Horst Stein**, **Marek Janowski**, **Giuseppe Sinopoli**, **Carlo Maria Giulini**, **Pierre Boulez**, **Neville Marriner**. She appeared in Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, Valencia, Madrid, Paris, Rome, Verona, Budapest. Norma has received special attention for her fine interpretation of the "Four last songs" by Richard Strauss. She recently toured the U.S. with a recital of songs by Arnold Schönberg in conjunction with his String Quartet op. 10.

Norma Sharp is **Professor of Voice** at the Hochschule für Musik "Hanns Eisler", Berlin. Her son, **Timothy Sharp**, studied voice at the same conservatory and proved to be one of the most promising baritones in her class. He has also become a preferred student of **Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau**, and is now well on his way towards an international career as an opera and concert singer.

Norma and her husband now reside on a farm just outside Berlin, where she also presents summer courses with recitals and concerts performed by her gifted students, many of whom are already active in music theaters in Germany and beyond.

August, 2004