

ABBIE FURMANSKY, Soprano – Biography

March 2012

American soprano Abbie Furmansky came to prominence in Europe as an ensemble member at the *Deutsche Oper Berlin* where she quickly established herself in the lyric soprano repertoire. Admired for her spirited stage presence and the luxurious color of her rich voice, she has worked with leading conductors such as Edo De Waart, Kent Nagano, John Nelson, Ingo Metzmacher, Christopher Hogwood and Christian Thieleman and appeared throughout Europe and the United States with orchestras such as the *Deutsches Symphonieorchester Berlin*, the *Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra* and the *Bavarian Radio Orchestra*.

Her performance with Vesselina Kasarova and Ramon Vargas as Inès in *La Favorite*, conducted by Marcello Viotti and the Bavarian Radio Orchestra is recorded on the BMG label. She appears in the Nikolaus Lehnhoff Baden Baden production of *Parsifal* conducted by Kent Nagano and released on DVD. Additional appearances have included performances with the New York City Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera, the opera companies of Munich and Frankfurt, and the Baden Baden Festival.

Furmansky's current repertoire includes: the title role in *Madama Butterfly*, The Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Elisabetta in *Don Carlos*, Marie in *Wozzeck*, Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*, Madame Lidoine in *Les Dialogues des Carmelites*, and Ariadne in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Performances have included Robert Wilson's Los Angeles Opera production of *Parsifal* with Placido Domingo, Netherlands Opera debut in *Elektra*, concert broadcast performance of *Parsifal* with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, and a concert of Mozart arias in Constance, Germany.

Concert performances have included Britten's *War Requiem* at the Philharmonie in Berlin, concert debut at the Lucerne Festival with the Luzerner Sinfonieorchester, in the European premiere of Bernstein's *Kaddish Symphony*, the Samuel Pizar's narration & text, which is released on Nimbus Records, Beethoven-Strauss's *Die Ruinen von Athen* with the Dresdner Philharmonie and Philippe Entremont conducting, Frank Martin's *Golgotha* in Potsdam, Beethoven's *9th Symphony* in Novi Sad Serbia and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

Highlights of 2008-9 included: new productions in new roles at the Staatstheater Mainz as the Marschallin in Strauss' *Rosenkavalier*, Jenny in Weill's *Mahagonny*, Mimì in Puccini's *La Bohème* and her debut as Marie in *Wozzeck*. In January 2010, Abbie Furmansky made her debut as Madama Butterfly, in a Katharina Wagner production at the Staatstheater Mainz.

An increasingly sought after international voice teacher, Abbie Furmansky maintains a private vocal studio and was for many years a faculty member of the prestigious IVAI summer program in Tel Aviv. As of 2010 she teaches vocal technique in workshops to the singers of the *Berlin Staatsoper Opera Studio*.

In April 2011, as an artist in residence, she gave a lecture and led a masterclass at her Alma Mater, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she also sang a recital with her husband Daniel Sutton. In the summer 2011 she was teaching for a week in July at the Greek Opera Studio and in July-August at the Ars Vocalis Mexico International Vocal Academy. In Zamora and Morelia (Mexico) she gave recitals with Alexandr Pashkiov (Piano) in July and August. In October 2011 she sang a Verdi/ Wagner Gala performance at the Magdeburg Theater sponsored by the Wagnerian Society, and in April 2012 she sings Mahler's 2nd symphonie in Sofia, Bulgaria, which will be broadcast on the Bulgarian National Radio.

She returns this summer to teach at the Greek Opera Studio and the Ars Vocalis Mexico International Vocal Academy. In conjunction with the festival she will give a recital in Mexico City.

She makes her home in Berlin, where she lives with her son Joshua, and her husband, the composer and pianist Daniel Sutton.

updated March 2012
(please remove all previous versions)