

## **BARBARA LANDIS • Mezzo Soprano**

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

6161 N. Hamilton • Chicago, IL 60659-4220 • 773-338-4182

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### **BIOGRAPHY**

Barbara Landis, mezzo - soprano, recently covered and studied the role of Baba in **The Medium** with Gian Carlo Menotti at the Spoleto Festival in Italy. She has sung the title role in **Carmen** with the National Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic, in a modern adaptation at Pegasus Playhouse of Chicago, with the American Opera Group, Highland Park Opera Studio, Illinois, and with other operatic companies in the Chicago area and San Francisco. She has received critical praise for her portrayal of Carmen. “Ms. Landis as Carmen, wasn't afraid to play the role with the seductiveness and even raunchiness it requires. She was outstanding...” (*Wheaton Daily Journal, IL*). “Miss Landis can weave a spell over the audience.” “...a dynamic mezzo-soprano voice.” (*Naperville Sun, IL*). Last year, she sang **Carmen** with the Golden Gate Opera in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

Barbara specializes in music and drama with a Spanish flair. Besides Carmen, she has portrayed the role of Aldonza in **Man of LaMancha** in the Midwest with Whitewater Opera, Sorg Opera, and in the Colorado Lyric Theatre Festival. Barbara has also portrayed Carmen in **La Tragedie de Carmen**.

Barbara has been active in the art of Zarzuela with Opera Factory of Chicago. She has performed the gypsy La Cantadora in **La Verbena de la Paloma** with Jarvis Conservatory Zarzuela Festival in Napa, CA. She has been a dance student of Pascual Olivera and Angela Del Moral and has danced in local theater and on NBC and WELD television.

Barbara has also studied and sung in Europe. At the Britten-Pears School in England, she was a student of Nancy Evans. There she sang the role of Lucretia in concert excerpts from Britten's **The Rape of Lucretia**, which was taped for broadcast by the BBC. She has studied in Italy and has received critical praise in Brescia, Italy “Barbara Landis' skill was put forth in the dramatic aria ‘Acerba voluttá’ from Adriana Lecouvreur of Cilea, (*Giornale di Brescia*). Barbara has performed the role of Fidalma in **The Secret Marriage** with Kommishe Kammer Oper Munchen in Germany and was invited back the next season.

Locally, she has received critical acclaim as a comedienne for her portrayal of Mad Margaret in Gilbert & Sullivan's **Ruddigore** with Light Opera Works. She has also been praised for leading roles in **Hansel and Gretel**, **The Italian Girl in Algiers** and Gilbert & Sullivan's **Trial by Jury**. Other roles include: Amneris in **Aida**, Princess Eboli in **Don Carlo** and Orsini in **Lucretia Borgia**, with da Corneto Opera Ensemble (Chicago), and Eleanor, the young understudy, in **Vaudeville Fantasy**, an original work by Mae Cohen. Barbara can be heard on Cedille Record's **The Medium** with Chicago Opera Theater and has sung live on Chicago WFMT/FM radio.

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## RESUME

### OPERA ROLES

<u>ROLE</u>	<u>WORK</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>	
Carmen	Carmen	Chamber Opera Chicago	2008
Mother	Amahl and the Night Visitors	Chamber Opera Chicago	2006, 2007
Secretary	The Consul	Chamber Opera Chicago	2006
Baba	The Medium	Chamber Opera Chicago	2005
Baba (cover)	The Medium (directed by Gian Carlo Menotti)	Spoleto Festival, Italy	2002
Carmen	Carmen	Golden Gate Opera / San Francisco	2001
Carmen	Carmen	National Symphony Orchestra, Dominican Republic	
Carmen	Carmen	San Francisco Lyric Opera Golden West Opera	2002
Carmen	Carmen	Opera Theatre North, IL	
Carmen	Carmen	DuPage Opera Theatre, IL	
Carmen	Carmen	American Opera Group	2002
Eboli	Don Carlo	w/Madison Symphony Members, Chicago	
Zita	Gianni Schicci	Da Corneto Opera Ensemble, Chicago	
Orsini	Lucretia Borgia	Piccolo Opera, Chicago	
Orsini	Lucretia Borgia	Da Corneto Opera Ensemble, Chicago	
Nicklausse	The Tales of Hoffman	Opera Theatre North, IL	
Secretary	The Consul	Chicago Lyric Opera Guild, Barrington, IL	
Mrs. Nolan	The Medium	Chicago Opera Theater, Cedille Recordings	
Emily	The Ballad of Baby Doe	Chicago Opera Theater	
Fidalma	Il Matrimonio Segreto	Komische Kammer Oper München	1999
Isabella	The Italian Girl in Algiers	Bowen Park Opera, IL	
Witch	Hansel and Gretel	DuPage Opera Theatre, IL	
Marcellina	The Marriage of Figaro	Rockford Symphony, IL	
Octavia	The Coronation of Poppea	DePaul University Opera, Chicago	
Baba	The Medium	Shepherd Players, IL	
Carmela	La Vida Breve	Opera Factory, Chicago	
Lucretia	Rape of Lucretia (excerpts)	Britten-Pears School, England	
Meg Page (cover)	Falstaff	Chamber Opera of Chicago	
Old Maid	The Old Mail and The Thief	Door County Opera, WI	
The Actress	Fritzi	Chicago Opera Theater New Works Showcase	
Erika (upcoming)	Vanessa	Chamber Opera Chicago, October 2008	
Witch (upcoming)	Hansel and Gretel	Chamber Opera Chicago, March 2009	

### ZARZUELA – OPERETTA - MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCES

Katisha	The Mikado	Light Opera Works 2006/2007
Carmen	The Tragédie de Carmen	American Opera Group (Wisconsin)
La Cantadora	La Verbena de la Paloma	Jarvis Zarzuela Festival, Napa, CA
Carmen	The Death of Carmen	Pegasus Playhouse, Chicago
Aldonza	Man of La Mancha	Colorado Lyric Theatre Festival
Aldonza	Man of La Mancha	Whitewater Opera, IN
Aldonza	Man of La Mancha	Sorg, Opera Ohio
Mad Margaret	Ruddier (G & S)	Light Opera Works, IL

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Orlofsky	Die Fledermaus	San Francisco Lyric Opera
Jacinta	Los Claveles (Zarzuela)	Opera Factory, Chicago
Eleanor	Vaudeville Fantasy (Mae Cohen)	The Players, Chicago
Soloist	Viva la Zarzuela	Opera Factory, Chicago
Mrs. Anderssen	A Little Night Music	ittle Theater on the Square, IL
Iolanthe	Iolanthe (G & S)	The Gilbert & Sullivan Series
Aldonza (upcoming)	Man of La Mancha	Athenaeum Theatre, Chicago May 2009

### **ORATORIO – CONCERT – RADIO**

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Featured singer/dancer	Excerpts from Carmen	WLS-ABC television, Chicago, 2008
Featured singer/dancer	Te Amo: A Musical Evening in Spain	Music Institute of Chicago, 2008
Featured singer	A Brilliant Night, A Brilliant Life: A Tribute to Gian Carlo Menotti	Chicago Cultural Center, Music Institute, Oak Park Arts Center, 2007
Featured singer	Excerpts from Amahl and the Night Visitors, The Medium	Chicago Tonight, WTTW television-Channel 11, 2007
Soloist	2004 Notti Musicali Modenesi Festival	Guzik Foundation of Modena, Italy
Alto	Duet Leider Recital at Concerto di Mezzogiomo	Festival dei due Mondi, Spoleto, Italy 2003
Azucena	Il Trovatore	Da Corneto Opera Ensemble, Chicago
Amneris	Aida	Da Corneto Opera Ensemble, Chicago
Mezzo Soloist	Verdi Requiem	Da Corneto Opera Ensemble
Alto Soloist	Messiah	Annapolis Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, Maryland
Alto Soloist	Austrian Baroque Concert	Ars Musica 2000
Mezzo Soloist	Live from Studio One	WFMT/FM Radio .
Mezzo Soloist	Italian Opera Gala	City Symphony Orchestra of Chicago

### **EDUCATION**

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Music Training:	Britten – Pears School, England, Chicago Opera Theater Young Artists' Program, Sarasota Opera Apprentice Program
Spanish Dance:	Pasqual Olivera * Angela Del Moral
Modern Dance:	Felix Fibich Dance Company
Ballett:	20 Years

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### **REVIEWS**

“Barbara Landis, Artistic Director of Chamber Opera Chicago, cast herself in the title role of The Medium and there could be no better choice. A strikingly, attractive young woman, with a rich mezzo-soprano, she transformed herself most effectively into an old, ugly harridan. Her hallucinatory mad scene was riveting.”

Richard Covello, **Chicago Tribune**

June, 2005

“Barbara Landis as Mad Margaret-surely the maddest Margaret on record. Landis's mezzo voice is commanding whether she is singing, cackling or uttering unearthly screeches.”

**Chicago Tribune**

“Barbara possesses a rich mezzo voice and her dark expressive eyes helped to propel the drama in ‘Trial by Jury.’

**Chicago Tribune**

“...Barbara Landis brought a coltish grace and expressive voice to the role of the young understudy.”

**Chicago Sun-Times**

“Here it is foremost the careful hand with which Verzatt has directed husky-voiced Barbara Landis as Aldonza, making her the focal figure of the work.”

**Daily Camera, CO**