

# Sharon Azrieli

C.Q, D.MUS., M.M., B.A., AAS, Adv. Cert.

## BIOGRAPHY

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Sharon Azrieli's magnificent soprano has been heard to great acclaim across the globe, from New York to Tokyo, and from Tel Aviv to her native Montreal. From her debut as Juliette (Roméo et Juliette) to recent portrayals of Gioconda (La Gioconda) and Nedda (I Pagliacci), Azrieli has been deemed "utterly charming" (Sarasota Herald Tribune) and praised for her "exceedingly beautiful voice, full of feeling" (Ha'aretz).

Sharon made her Metropolitan Opera debut in November 2018, as the "highly credible and vivacious" (Arthur Kaptainis – Montreal Gazette) Sister Dolcina in Puccini's Suor Angelica. In March 2019, she performed the renowned Berlioz "Les Nuits D'Été" with the MCO. In May 2019, she sang two concerts in Israel, with Ramat Gan Orchestra and Hebrew University Orchestra. June 2019 marked her debut in the role of Marcellina in Le Nozze Di Figaro of Mozart under the direction of Alexander Shelley at the National Arts Center in Ottawa.

Leading roles with orchestras in Concert and Oratorio works include: the Montreal Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Kent Nagano, Jerusalem Symphony, One World Symphony, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Haifa Symphony Orchestra,, and McGill Chamber Orchestra, Mid America Orchestra, among many others.

Her varied orchestral and sacred work has included Leonard Bernstein's Kaddish (narrated by Richard Dreyfuss), Dan Forrest's Jubilate Deo with Tracy Resseguie, as well as the Gabriel Fauré Requiem in D Minor, Op. 48 with Alex Qian, both of which were performed at Carnegie Hall. Sharon has also sung many world premieres, most notably: Esther Diaries by H. Stafylakis (2014) and Cantata for the Unsung by James M. Stephenson (2016). She sang Santuzza, (Cavalleria Rusticana) with Marcello Giordani in Sicily in 2015 and returned to sing Nedda in I Pagliacci with him last summer (2017) with the Bellini Orchestra in Catania, Italy under the direction of Antonio Manuli.

Leading operatic roles have included: Mimi (La Bohème); Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro); Elvira (Don Giovanni); Liu (Turandot); Aida (Aida); Leonora (Il Trovatore) and Adriana Lecouvreur with such Opera Houses as the New Israel Opera, the Canadian Opera Company, L'Opéra de Paris à la Bastille, and Sarasota Opera, among others. Of her Laurette in Le Docteur Miracle with L'Opéra Français de New York, Andrew Porter of *The New Yorker* hailed her as a "mistress of merry inflections, piquant phrasing and pointed words."

Dr. Sharon Azrieli holds a BA in Art History from Vassar College, an Associate's Degree in Interior design and Illustration from the Parsons School of Design, an Advanced Certificate in Performance from the Juilliard School, and Masters and Doctorate Degrees in Music from the University of Montreal. She sits on the Boards of the following Philanthropic organizations: The America Israel Cultural Foundation, the McGill Chamber Orchestra, the McCord Museum, the National Arts Centre Youth Education Program, The Opera Cares Foundation, as well as the Azrieli Foundation, and serves as a Director on the Board of The Azrieli Group, in addition to her many diverse business interests. She also publishes the very popular home design magazines: Montreal Home, Toronto Home, and Vancouver Home, which can be seen on the web at [www.movatohome.com](http://www.movatohome.com). She also serves as a judge for the Azrieli Architectural Prize and the Grand Prix du Conseil des Arts de Montréal.

For more information on Sharon and her performances, please visit her website: [www.sharonazrieli.com](http://www.sharonazrieli.com).

Represented by Leila Chalfoun and Agence LM Opéra  
356 Rue St- Eustache, Ville St – Eustach, QC J7R 2M3  
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## PRESS REVIEWS:

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*"Among the highly credible supporting nuns was Montrealer Sharon Azrieli as the vivacious Sister Dolcina."*

Arthur Kaptainis – **THE MONTREAL GAZETTE**

*"Amid lively casts the Canadian soprano Sharon Azrieli, as the heroine of Le Docteur Miracle, was a mistress of merry inflections, piquant phrasing, and pointed words."*

Andrew Porter – **THE NEW YORKER**

*"Outstanding was Sharon Azrieli, who sang Rachel in La Juive with an exceedingly beautiful voice, full of feeling."*

Noam Ben-Zeev – **HA'ARETZ (Israel)**

*"Having heard her in Mozart last September, I found that the shift into romantic high gear becomes Azrieli. Her engagingly clear and vibrant voice matched the sentiments -and sentimentality- of the Tchaikovsky songs. Azrieli sang in Russian and rendered the songs with a vocal exuberance [...]"*

Ilse Zadrozny – **THE MONTREAL GAZETTE**

*"Sharon Azrieli's Susanna managed to be wily yet candid, flirtatious, practical and utterly charming. And her bell-like soprano is always exquisitely in tune [...]"*

Florence Fisher – **SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE**

*"Susanna, one of the longest roles in opera, was the delightful Sharon Azrieli. Pert and pretty, she has a lovely warm voice that easily floated over the orchestra. Her rock-solid technique enabled her in the fourth act, after a long evening, to still sing an ethereal and enchanting 'Dehviene non tardar'".*

Kenneth Blount – **OUR TOWN (New York)**

*"Soprano Sharon Azrieli [...] has a focused, buttery voice blessed with a radiant high end [...]"*

Kurt Loft – **THE TAMPA TRIBUNE**

*"Soprano Sharon Azrieli soared sweetly or quaked with fear and wrath on cue [...]"*

Richard S. Ginell – **THE LOS ANGELES TIMES**

*"Her low profile is a paradox, for her voice was big and lustrous, and her way with Tchaikovsky's melodies was compelling. [...] Azrieli's Russian diction [...] sounded spot-on, and her stage comportment was naturally expressive.*

*[...] A real, operatic soprano [...]"*

Richard S. Ginell – **THE LOS ANGELES TIMES**

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## ROLES PERFORMED:

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- Marcellina: Nozze Di Figaro Mozart: National Arts Center
- Suor Dolcina: Suor Angelica Puccini: The Metropolitan Opera
- Liu: Turandot Puccini, New Israel Opera
- Mimi: La Boheme Puccini, Canadian Opera Company
- Adriana: (cover) Adriana Lecouvreur Cilea, L'Opera de Paris a la Bastille, Paris
- Susanna: Le Nozze di Figaro Mozart, Sarasota Opera Co.
- Nedda: Pagliacci, Ruggero Leoncavallo, Marcello Giordani, Sicily
- La Gioconda: La Gioconda Ponchielli, NJAVO, New Jersey
- Santuzza Caralleria Rusticana Mascagni, Marcello Giordani Young Artist Foundation, Sicily
- Bess: Porgy and Bess, George Gershwin, The Emeritus Orchestra, Tel Aviv
- Juliette: Romeo et Juliette Gounod, COC; NJAVO
- Leonora: Il Trovatore, Verdi, NJAVO; I.V.A.I
- Aida: Aida, Verdi, New Jersey Association of Verismo Opera (NJAVO)
- Leonora: La Forza del Destino, Verdi, One World Symphony
- Madame Lidoine: Les Dialogues des Carmelites, Poulenc, OWS
- Elvira: Don Giovanni Mozart, Vermont Opera Festival
- Laurette: Dr. Miracle, Bizet, L'Opera Francais de New York
- Nedda: I Pagliacci, Leoncavallo, New York in the Parks Festival
- Helene: La Belle Helene, Southeastern Savoyards
- Rachel: La Juive, Halevy, I.V.A.I
- Manon Lescaut: Manon Lescaut, Puccini, I.V.A.I
- Norina: Don Pasquale, Donizetti, I.V.A.I

## SACRED WORKS:

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- Bach Saint John's Passion: The Atlanta Bach Choral
- Beethoven Mass in C minor: Haifa Symphony
- Bernstein: Kaddish, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra
- Dvořák Stabat Mater: University of Montreal
- Faure Requiem: New England Symphonic Ensemble, Carnegie Hall, New York
- Mozart Requiem: Emeritus Orchestra, Tel-Aviv
- Rossini Stabat Mater: Haifa Symphony
- Verdi Requiem: New West Symphony and New Jersey State Opera at Ocean Grove

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## ORCHESTRAL REPERTOIRE:

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- Berlioz: *Les Nuits D'Été* conduct. Boris Brott. Orchestre Classique de Montreal
- Barber: *Knoxville, Summer of 1915*, University of Montreal
- Beethoven: *9<sup>th</sup> Symphony*, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, MCO
- Bernstein: *Songfest*, Jerusalem Symphony
- Cilea: *Io son l'umile ancella* from *Adriana Lecouvreur*, Opera Orchestra of New York, Carnegie Hall
- Forrest: *Jubilate Deo*, New England Symphonic Ensemble, Carnegie Hall
- Granados: *Canciones Amatorias*, MCO, Maison Symphonique, Montreal
- Houston Grand Opera: *Duets and Arias*, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra
- Mahler: *4<sup>th</sup> Symphony*, L'Orchestre de l'Isle
- Mahler: *8<sup>th</sup> Symphony* (2<sup>nd</sup> Soprano soloist), National Orchestra of Canada
- Mahler: *Rückert Lieder*, Montreal Symphony Orchestra
- Mozart Concert: *Arias*, McGill Chamber Orchestra
- Ofer Ben Amots and Tzvi Avni: *modern works*, Israel Chamber Orchestra
- Puccini: *Arias*, Jerusalem Symphony
- Ravel: *Deux mélodies Hébraïques*, MCO
- Stephenson: World Premiere of *Cantata for the Unsung*, MCO
- Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov: *Songs*, MCO

## CONDUCTORS:

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Yves Abel, Marco Armiliato, Maurizio Benini, Richard Bradshaw, Alexander Brott, Boris Brott, Tom Cohen, Ronnie Calderon, Jacques De La Cote, Rudolph Fellner, Elizabeth Hastings, William Hicks, Joseph Illick, John Keenan, David Leighton, Tony Morss, Steven Mercurio, Paul Nadler, Kent Nagano, Jean-Francois Rivest, Valery Ryvkin, William Fred Scott, David Shallon, Alexander Shelley, Yoav Talmi, Mara Waldman, Katia Makdisi Warren.

## DISCOGRAPHY:

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- Frankly Sharon – Time Life – 2020
- Great French Arias of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century – Time Life - 2019
- Sharon Azrieli Sings Broadway – Time Life – 2019
- The Gift of Joy – Time Life – 2019
- New Jewish Music Vol.2 – Analekta – 2019
- New Jewish Music Vol.1 – Analekta – 2018

## AWARDS

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AWARD: Chevalière of the National Order of Quebec, 2019

AWARD: Prix Virtuoso, La Petite Maison Des Arts, 2015

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WINNER: Jarmila Novotna Competition NY, 2000  
FIRST PLACE: Jarmila Novotna Competition RTIVC, 1995  
DISTRICT WINNER: Metropolitan Opera Auditions, 1993  
STUDY GRANT: Metropolitan Opera National Council, 1991 & 1993  
CONCERT FINALIST: Luciano Pavarotti Competition, 1991 – 1992  
FINALIST: American Opera Auditions, 1990  
GRANT FOR STUDY: Francisco Viñas Competition, Spain 1990  
WINNER: Boca Raton Music Guild Competition, 1990  
WINNER: Canadian Women’s Club Competition, 1990

## SHARON’S NETWORK

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Website: [www.sharonazrieli.com](http://www.sharonazrieli.com)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/divaleh](http://www.youtube.com/divaleh)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/sopranosharonazrieli](http://www.facebook.com/sopranosharonazrieli)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/sharonazrielisoprano](http://www.instagram.com/sharonazrielisoprano)

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