



Luminous Cynthia  
FAMOUS ITALIAN OPERA ARIAS

Oulu Symphony Orchestra  
Arvo Volmer, conductor

## Cynthia Makris, soprano

The American soprano Cynthia Makris has achieved international fame as a great interpreter of the operatic heroines of works from the 1800's and 1900's with her excitingly strong and personal interpretations.

Cynthia Makris had her debut as Floria Tosca in her home state of Colorado on the stage of the Denver Lyric Opera. She won the Metropolitan Opera and San Francisco Regional Opera competitions, being awarded a special prize for her interpretation of the three heroines in Hoffman's Tales.



Cynthia Makris' name is closely associated with Richard Strauss's Salome which she has sung in opera houses around the world, as for example in Harry Kupfer's productions in Berlin and Tokyo, Dieter Dorn's in Strasbourg and Lisbon, August Everding's production in Munich and under the direction of the choreographer Graeme Murphy in the Australian Opera, Scottish Opera, Hanover, Stuttgart, Helsinki and Philadelphia.

Cynthia Makris might have been created for the dramatic colorata roles of Bellini, Donizetti, Mozart and Verdi. She is just as at home also with the lyrical dramatic roles of Puccini, Richard Strauss and Wagner. She has performed in, for example, Milan's La Scala, Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Covent Garden, the Berlin State Opera, the Stockholm Royal Opera, Opéra du Rhin in Strasbourg, Deutsche Oper am Rhein and the Finnish National Opera.

Cynthia Makris' outstanding performance as Lady Macbeth in the Savonlinna Opera Festival and, particularly, in the video recording made of it have received excellent reviews and made her a favourite of the general public. She has also sung her Lady Macbeth role in La Scala in 1997 and in Teatro Colon in 1998.

In spring 1998 her repertoire included Norma's role in Philadelphia and Tosca's part in Helsinki, in summer Tannhäuser's Venus and La forza del destino's Leonora at the Savonlinna Opera Festival. In the season 1998-1999 she will sing Salome in Stockholm and Rio de Janeiro, Anna Bolena and Fidelio in Helsinki and Tosca in Paris.

Tenor **Raimo Sirkiä** won the Timo Mustakallio Song Competition and has ever since appeared in many of the most significant European opera houses. In summer 1996 Sirkiä had his debut as Tannhäuser at the Savonlinna Opera Festival and in the same season as Sigmund, as well as in 1997 as Siegfried in the new production of the Wagner's Ring at the Finnish National Opera.

*Translation James Nimmo*

# Oulu Symphony Orchestra

Around the middle of the 1930's the city of Oulu got its first symphony orchestra which can be considered permanent. The orchestra gave its first concert on 19.4.1937 with Reino Kahra conducting. The development of the orchestra went rapidly forward when Urpo Pesonen became its conductor and music director at the end of 1944. After him the city orchestra's music directors were Paavo Rautio, Pentti Sistonen, Stephen Portman and Onni Kelo. During the term of Rauno Rännäli as conductor the orchestra had got its new home in the Oulu Music Centre - the acoustically splendid Madetoja Hall was completed in 1983. During the period of conductor Ari Angervo the orchestra grew to its present size of 53 musicians. At the beginning of 1990's the Estonian Peeter Lilje became the music director of the orchestra and after him his countryman Arvo Volmer, whose unyielding rehearsing and diverse concert programmes have raised the **Oulu Symphony Orchestra** to amongst the top in Finnish orchestras. For its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year the orchestra invited John Storgårds as its principal guest conductor and Olli Kortekangas as composer-in-residence. In addition to its classical basic programme the orchestra has premiered Finnish contemporary music and appeared, in addition to its home city, around the province, as well as having a successful visit to, amongst others, the Tampere Biennale in April 1998.

**Arvo Volmer** (born 1962), music director of the Oulu Symphony Orchestra and the Estonian State Symphony Orchestra initially studied as a choral conductor in the Tallinn conservatory, where he received his diploma in 1985. After this he moved to the St Petersburg conservatory and completed his opera conductor and orchestra conductor studies in 1990. In 1985 he had commenced his conductor's career in the Estonia theatre by conducting Händel's opera Alcina. Today, also, he regularly conducts there operas, operettas and ballets. Arvo Volmer had his debut as conductor for the Estonian State Symphony orchestra in 1987. He was appointed its conductor in 1989 and music director in 1993. Mr. Volmer was invited to be the music director of the Oulu Symphony Orchestra in autumn 1994. In addition to orchestral concerts he has conducted operas in Oulu including, amongst others, Puccini's Tosca, Madetoja's Juha and Stravinski's The Rake's Progress. In addition to the Finnish and Baltic countries' orchestras Arvo Volmer has regularly been a visiting conductor for orchestras in the Nordic countries, Holland, Poland, Russia and Israel. In addition to orchestra's classic basic repertoire Arvo Volmer enjoys conducting contemporary music and has often been seen as a visitor in modern music festivals at, amongst others, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Göteborg.

*Recorded at Oulu Music Centre / Madetoja Hall March 1998*

*Recording Antti Karvonen*

*Editing Kimmo Pihlajamaa*

*Mastering Antti Saukko / Editroom Oy*

*Photos : Kai Tirkkonen / Kuvamedia*

*Graphic design Jaakko Peltonen*

*Producer Kimmo Pihlajamaa*

*Executive producers Riitta Pulliainen/Oulu Symphony Orchestra & Timo Ruottinen/Alba*



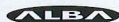
# LUMINOUS CYNTHIA

Famous Italian Opera Arias

**Cynthia Makris, soprano**

Oulu Symphony Orchestra

Arvo Volmer, conductor



- |   |      |               |
|---|------|---------------|
| 1 Lady Macbeth's recitative and aria from Giuseppe Verdi's opera <b>Macbeth</b><br>"Nel di della vittoria" - "Ambizioso spirito"                    | 7:26 | FIABA 9800180 |
| 2 Leonora's recitative and aria from Giuseppe Verdi's opera <b>Il Trovatore</b><br>"Ne' tornei" - "Tacea la notte placida"                          | 6:47 | FIABA 9800181 |
| 3 Tosca's aria from Giacomo Puccini's opera <b>Tosca</b><br>"Vissi d'arte"  | 3:13 | FIABA 9800182 |
| 4 Turandot's aria from Giacomo Puccini's opera <b>Turandot</b><br>"In questa reggia"  | 5:56 | FIABA 9800183 |
| 5 Manon's aria from Giacomo Puccini's opera <b>Manon Lescaut</b><br>"Sola, perduta, abbandonata"  | 5:18 | FIABA 9800184 |
| 6 Norma's aria from incenzo Bellini's opera <b>Norma</b><br>"Casta Diva"  | 6:16 | FIABA 9800185 |
| 7 Abigaille's recitative and aria from Giuseppe Verdi's opera <b>Nabucco</b><br>"Ben io t'invenni o fatal scritto!" - "Anch'io dischiuso un giorno" | 8:47 | FIABA 9800186 |
| 8 Leonora's aria from Giuseppe Verdi's opera <b>La forza del destino</b><br>"Pace, pace, mio Dio"   | 5:43 | FIABA 9800187 |
| 9 Violetta's recitative and aria from Giuseppe Verdi's opera <b>La Traviata</b><br>"É strano!" - "Sempre libera"                                    | 9:19 | FIABA 9800188 |

**Total timing 59:35**

Tracks 4 and 9 featuring Raimo Sirkkä, tenor

# LUMINOUS CYNTHIA

## Famous Italian Opera Arias

OULU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - ARVO VOLMER, CONDUCTOR

### Cynthia Makris, soprano

- Verdi: **Macbeth** / Lady Macbeth 7:26  
*"Nel di della vittoria" - "Ambizioso spirito"*
- Verdi: **Il Trovatore** / Leonora 6:47  
*"Ne' tornei" - "Tacea la notte placida"*
- Puccini: **Tosca** / Tosca 3:13  
*"Vissi d'arte"*
- Puccini: **Turandot** / Turandot 5:56  
*"In questa reggia"*
- Puccini: **Manon Lescaut** / Manon 5:18  
*"Sola, perduta, abbandonata"*
- Bellini: **Norma** / Norma 6:16  
*"Casta Diva"*
- Verdi: **Nabucco** / Abigaille 8:47  
*"Ben io t'invenni o fatal scritto!" - "Anch'io dischiuso un giorno"*
- Verdi: **La forza del destino** / Leonora 5:43  
*"Pace, pace, mio Dio"*
- Verdi: **La Traviata** / Violetta 9:19  
*"É strano!" - "Sempre libera"*

**Total timing 59:35**



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