

Italian soprano **Barbara Frittoli** established a major international operatic career in the 1990s and is rated as one of the leading lirico-spinto sopranos of her generation.

The native of Milan studied at that city's Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory of Music, graduating with honors. After winning several international competitions, she began her operatic career in 1989 at the Teatro Communale in Florence in Bucchi's *Il Giuoco del Barone*. She soon appeared at the Festival Donizetti in Bergamo and at the Carlo Felice Theater in Geneva.

The year 1992 was one of major debuts for Frittoli, during which she appeared in *Carmen* in Philadelphia, in Naples in *La Bohème*, at La Scala in Milan in *Beatrice di Tenda*, and at Santa Cecilia in Rome in a rare production of Schubert's *Rosamunde*. The next year she played in *Carmen* (Micaëla) and *La Bohème* (Mimi) at the Vienna State Opera and made an impression in Baroque opera in Pergolesi's *Flaminio* at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples.

Mimi and Micaëla were her roles in her first season with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and she was Micaëla when she sang at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in London.

She has also appeared in Ferrara, *La Monnaie* in Brussels, the Opéra Bastille in Paris (as Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*), the Teatro Communale of Florence, and the Regio of Turin.

She toured with the Maggio Musicale of Florence as Liù in Puccini's *Turandot* when it took its spectacular production to China. This included the famous performance known as "Turandot in the Forbidden City," which has been recorded under Zubin Mehta's direction as a compact disc and a DVD on the RCA label.

Other leading operas in her repertory include *Le nozze di Figaro* (Countess), *Così fan tutte* (Fiordiligi), *La Clemenza di Tito* (Vitellia), *Otello* (Desdemona), *Falstaff* (Alice Ford), *Il Trovatore* (Leonora), and *Simon Boccanegra* (Amelia). She was invited to participate in the opening production of the renovated Royal Opera House in London in 1999 as Alice Ford.

Conductors with whom she has worked in opera and on the concert stage include Claudio Abbado, Lorin Maazel, Sir Charles Mackerras, Riccardo Muti, Georges Prêtre, Daniele Gatti, Antonio Pappano, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Andrew Davis, Semyon Bychkov, and Riccardo Chailly.

In the year 2000, she added to her credits the parts of Sifare in Mozart's *Mitridate*, *rè di Ponto* and Marghereta in Gounod's *Faust*.

In addition to the *Forbidden City* discs, her recordings include Puccini's *Il Trittico* on Decca, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* on Teldec, *Il Viaggio a Reims* on Sony, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* on EMI, and Rossini's *Stabat Mater* on Decca.

She is also in demand as a concert singer, where her repertory includes Strauss' *Four Last Songs*, Mozart's *D minor mass*, K. 427, the two versions of the *Stabat Mater* already mentioned, Verdi's *Requiem*, and Brahms' *German Requiem* in addition to a concert performance of Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann*. She appears frequently as a recital singer.