



KAREN PARKS

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PERFORMANCE RÉSUMÉ

INTRODUCTION

Karen's performance experience consists of worldwide appearances in major theaters, concert and recital halls and opera houses, presenting classical, sacred and secular repertoire in twelve languages and fourteen countries.

NATIONAL APPEARANCES

NEW YORK, NEW YORK— Carnegie Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, Metropolitan Museum of Art Performance Hall, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Aaron Davis Hall, Marian Anderson Theatre, Hochstein Theatre
WASHINGTON, DC — Kennedy Center, National Academy of Sciences
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS— Symphony Hall
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA— San Francisco Opera
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA — REDCAT Theater
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA — Anchorage Opera House
DALLAS, TEXAS— Meyerson Hall
HOUSTON, TEXAS — Rice University Recital Hall
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA — Embassy Theatre
AUSTIN, TEXAS — Paramount Theatre

INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES

LONDON, ENGLAND — Old Vic Theatre, Barbican Hall, Cliveden Estates
GERMANY AND AUSTRIA— Mozarteum and Major Opera Houses/Halls including Berlin, Köln, Munich, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Mannheim, Karlsruhe, Dusseldorf, Bregens, Salzburg, Vienna, Graz, Horn
RUSSIA — Perm Concert Hall
SWITZERLAND AND HUNGARY — Major Opera Houses/Halls including Zurich, Bern, Budapest
ITALY— Major Opera Houses/Halls/Cathedrals including Milan, Rome, Florence, Venice, Palermo, Luino, Dolomiti, Seregno
SPAIN— Madrid, Barcelona, Valladolid
SCANDINAVIA— Major Opera Houses/Halls/Festivals including Finland, Savonlinna, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia

SYMPHONIES

UNITED STATES — Boston Pops, San Francisco Symphony, Sacramento Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Birmingham Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Greenville Symphony
EUROPE — Helsinki Philharmonic, Savonlinna Opera Orchestra, London Symphony, Göteborg Philharmonic, Budapest Symphony, Estonia Philharmonic, World Symphony for UNICEF, Perm Philharmonic (Russia), Karavai (Russian folk instruments – balalaika and domra)

PERFORMANCE AND TEACHING BIOGRAPHY

Karen's career highlights include performances with the San Francisco Opera, London Symphony, Budapest Symphony, Göteborg Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic, New World Symphony and the Boston Pops. She performed a concert commissioned by Dame Janet Baker at Barbican Hall, toured as Micæla in *Carmen* with the San Francisco Opera and sang the role of Nedda in *Pagliacci* for three seasons at the Savonlinna Opera Festival in Finland. She has performed in twelve languages and fourteen countries at major concert halls, cathedrals, theaters and opera houses worldwide, including Carnegie Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and The Old Vic Theater in London's West End.

Her numerous solo and collaborative recordings include *Nobody Knows*, which debuted at #2 on the Billboard Charts (classical), *Nocturne*, the first English language album of Finnish classical poetry, the world premiere of *Perfect Harmony* (recorded, televised and aired internationally), *Song of America*, a compilation album of songs, by renowned artists, related to the history of America, *Rosa Parks Oratorio*, a commissioned work of contemporary jazz by Wadada Leo Smith, and the role of Cindy Lou in *Carmen Jones* at Abbey Studios in London (EMI). Karen graced the London musical theater stage in the West End production of *Carmen Jones* at the Old Vic Theater. Her performance in the role of Cindy Lou earned her an Olivier Award nomination. In film, Karen was the only singer granted permission by the Gershwin family to appear LIVE during the filming of *Porgy and Bess: An American Voice*. It was narrated by Ruby Dee and aired on Great Performances."

A Fulbright scholar, Karen was the first recipient to be awarded exclusive study with Mæstro Gabriele Pisani at the prestigious La Scala Opera House in Milan, Italy. Her studies of seven operatic and orchestral roles were the first and only granted by a mæstro at La Scala. In order to maintain her studies with the mæstro for the duration of her tenure, Karen was granted an additional Fulbright award by the organization. Her debut solo performance was in Milan with the Mæstro at the piano.

Karen's voice clients perform in varied genres of music at major venues including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center and The New York City Opera. Her musical theater clients are cast on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in Regional Theaters and on National tours. Shows include *FROZEN*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Waitress*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Newsies*, *West Side Story*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Violet*, *RENT*, *Les Misérables*, *Elf*, *The Lion King* and *Disney's D Capella*. In addition, Karen's clients have been selected to perform on the highly coveted Cabaret Stage at Feinstein's/54 Below and in Broadway's Rising Stars at New York City's Town Hall.

Directors of university main stage and departmental productions often cast Karen's students in leading roles. More than 95% of her high school clients have been accepted to the college of their choice on full or significant scholarship at major universities including Julliard, Manhattan School of Music, NYU, AMDA, USC, Oberlin Conservatory, Berklee School of Music, Carnegie Mellon, University of Michigan, Mannes/The New School, Indiana and UNC Chapel Hill.

Karen Parks is President, CEO and Director of Stagebound, Inc., which presents vocal intensives, workshops, seminars, masterclasses and professional performances in all major genres of music. Karen also works with YoungArts as a Master Artist, Vocal Consultant, National Panelist, Adjudicator and Creative Director. As part of her doctoral degree she frequently performed for the Getty Foundation, raising substantial funds for the vocal program. Karen is currently a member of the Voice Faculty at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (New Studio on Broadway) and continues to perform both nationally and internationally. Additionally, Karen maintains a private voice studio with instruction offered to clients worldwide, via In-Person, FaceTime or Skype lessons.