

MARIA STEFYUK Complete CV

Ukrainian lyric coloratura soprano Maria Stefiuk (b. 1948) developed her career as a citizen of the former USSR and then of independent Ukraine. She made her professional debut at the Kyiv Opera House in 1972, and rose up to become one of her country's most distinguished lyric artists.

Her operatic repertoire included, in the Russian language, the leading roles in operas such as Lysenko's 'Taras Bulba', Glinka's 'A life for the tsar', Rimsky-Korsakov's 'The Tsar's Bride', Mussorgsky's 'The Fair at Sorotchinsky' and Shostakovich's 'Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk'. In Italian, she was mainly associated with the roles of Zerlina ('Don Giovanni'), Rosina ('The Barber of Seville'), Lucia (Donizetti), the Verdian roles of Violetta and Gilda and Musetta from 'La Bohème'. French opera saw her perform such roles as Manon (Massenet), Marguerite de Valois (Meyerbeer), Leila (Bizet), and Eros from Gluck's 'Orphée et Eurydice'.

Abroad, she made her La Scala debut in 1981, with 'The Fair at Sorotchinsky' and later also performed at Dresden's Semperoper (1987, title role of 'Lucia di Lammermoor'), Berlin's State Opera (1988, Violetta from 'La Traviata'), beside a 1986 appearance at Wiesbaden's Internationale Maifestspiele as Marfa from 'The Tsar's Bride'. On the opera stage or in concert repertoire (orchestral or chamber), she was a guest singer in the USA, Canada, UK, France, Switzerland, Austria, Turkey, Argentina and Japan.

Her chamber repertoire encompassed works, among others, by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Caccini, Händel, J.S. Bach, Mozart, Cherubini, Rossini, Verdi, Gounod, Massenet, besides Ukrainian folksongs.

From 2000 to 2019, Maria Stefiuk taught singing at the Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music, in Kyiv, the very institution from which she graduated, back in 1972.

Mrs. Stefiuk was a member of the jury at a number of international vocal competitions in her home country and abroad, like the Lysenko Competition in Kyiv (2003), the Malanyuk Competition (Ivano-Frankivsk, 2006 and 2015), the Kruchelnitska Competition Lviv (2009), the Alexandrovskaya Competition in neighboring Belarus (2004) and for several times at the Bulbul Competition in Baku (Azerbaijan).

For her significant contribution to the development of culture and the arts in Ukraine, she was made a People's Artist of Ukraine (1979) and of the USSR in 1985. In 1988, she was a recipient of the Shevchenko State Prize of the Ukrainian SSR (later renamed Shevchenko National Prize). In recognition of her many years as a performing artist at the highest level and her outstanding professionalism, Maria Stefiuk was awarded the Order of Princess Olga – First Class (2003), and in 2008, she was made a Hero of Ukraine by the country's then President.