

Sara LeMesh, Soprano | Biography: 2023-24

Soprano Sara LeMesh, hailed by the **San Francisco Chronicle** for her “**powerhouse performance of vocal majesty and expressive translucency,**” is a dramatic presence on the opera stage, an avid chamber musician, and an advocate of contemporary music. Garnering praise in international vocal competitions, the “**mesmerizing**” and “**affectingly plangent**” soprano (Opera News) recently won **First Prize** in the **PARTNERS for the Arts, Inc. National Opera Competition**, **First Prize** in **The Lyndon Woodside Oratorio-Solo Competition** at Carnegie Hall, and **First Prize** in the **Federation of the Art Song Fellowship Competition**. She also won the **Third Prize** and **Audience Choice Award** in the **Josep Palet International Singing Competition** in Martorell, Spain.

Captivating audiences with her “**lush tone, exceptional high-register clarity, dramatic breadth, and fearless command**” (San Francisco Classical Voice), the rising soprano’s 2023-24 season includes numerous role and company debuts. In February 2024, she performed the role of Isabel Perón in Carlos Franzetti’s *Corpus Evita* with **West Bay Opera** to critical acclaim. Her performance was praised for its “**vocal fervor and dramatic power**” (San Francisco Chronicle) and “**superb example of vocal acting**” (The Almanac). Upcoming debuts include the titular role of Marie in Donzetti’s *La fille du régiment* with the **Opera Company of Middlebury** as well as Narcissa in Haydn’s *Jupiter’s Journey to the Earth* with **The Little Opera Theatre of New York**. In September 2024, Ms. LeMesh joins **Florentine Opera** as a Resident Artist where she will perform the roles of **Galatea** in Handel’s *Acis and Galatea*, Kate Pinkerton in Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, and Luigia in Donizetti’s *Viva la mamma!*

Passionate about new works, Ms. LeMesh joined **Opera Philadelphia** in the fall of 2023 for the role of **Nellie/The Madwoman** (cover) in the world premiere of Rene Orth’s *10 Days in a Madhouse*. In the spring of 2023, Ms. LeMesh was a Resident Artist with **Opera Naples** where she performed the role of **Josephine** in Gilbert & Sullivan’s *H.M.S. Pinafore* as well as **Frasquita** in Bizet’s *Carmen* and **Woman #1** in Robert Xavier Rodriguez’s *Frida* under the baton of Ramon Tébar. Additional opera credits include **Bess McNeill** in Missy Mazzoli’s *Breaking The Waves* with **West Edge Opera**, Lisa/Young Leah in **Lori Laitman’s Uncovered** with **City Lyric Opera**, **Zerlina** in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* with **Pocket Opera**, and **Norina** in Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale* with the **Mendocino Music Festival**.

A devoted recitalist and interpreter of concert works, Ms. LeMesh attended the **Marlboro Music Festival** during the summers of 2022 and 2023 where she performed with **pianist Jonathan Biss** and **tenor Mark Padmore**, among other esteemed artists. Recent concert appearances include her **Carnegie Hall** debut as the soprano soloist in **Poulenc’s Gloria** with the New England Symphonic Ensemble (March 2024). She also debuted her concert, **Voices of Identity: Songs of the Jewish Diaspora**, at the Zimmerli Museum of Rutgers University with her collaborative partner, pianist Allegra Chapman. Upcoming appearances include the **Greenwich Choral**

Society as the soprano soloist in **Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*** and **Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music***. Notable past concert engagements include the **Brooklyn Art Song Society, Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players, and Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra**. She looks forward to attending **YellowBarn** in Vermont as a vocal fellow in the summer of 2024.

Ms. LeMesh has performed throughout the United States and Europe at venues and festivals including **The Morgan Library & Museum, Aspen Music Festival, Tanglewood Music Center, Music Academy of the West, Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar, American Bach Soloists Academy, and International Summer Academy of the Mozarteum Salzburg** where she worked closely with Italian bass-baritone Ruggero Raimondi. While at Tanglewood, she was a soloist in Berlioz's *Les nuits d'été* under the baton of **Stéphane Denève** and co-premiered ***Folk Songs*** by **Bernard Rands**. With pianist Allegra Chapman, Ms. LeMesh performs in the **piano-vocal duo Chordless**, creating unique spaces to explore and appreciate music that has historically been ignored or is brand new.

The Californian soprano received her Master of Music Degree from the **Bard College-Conservatory of Music** and a Bachelor of Music Degree from **Rice University**. She resides in New York City with her husband and furbaby, Coco.

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