

Described by *The New York Times* as “one of America’s finest artists and singers,” mezzo-soprano **FREDERICA VON STADE** continues to be extolled as one of the music world’s most beloved figures in a career that has taken her to the stages of the world’s great opera houses and concert halls.

Since her 1970 debut at the Metropolitan Opera, she has sung nearly all of her great roles with the opera company, which has created multiple new productions for her in celebration of milestone anniversaries. Von Stade has appeared with every leading opera company worldwide, including Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera Covent Garden, Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Vienna State, Paris, San Francisco and Los Angeles Operas. She has appeared with orchestras including the Chicago, Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras; New York Philharmonic; Boston and London Symphony Orchestras, National Symphony and Orchestra of La Scala.

A noted *bel canto* specialist, she excelled as the heroines of Rossini’s *The Barber of Seville* and Bellini’s *La sonnambula*. She is an unmatched stylist in the French repertoire: in one critic’s words, “the Mélisande of one’s dreams.” She is a lauded interpreter of the great trouser roles, from Strauss’ Octavian and Composer to Mozart’s Sesto, Idamante and Cherubino. Her artistry has inspired the revival of neglected works by Massenet, Rameau and Monteverdi. Operetta and musical theater highlights include the title role in *The Merry Widow* and Desirée Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*. She created roles in Dallas Opera’s world-premiere production of Dominick Argento’s *The Aspern Papers* (a work written for her) as well as Conrad Susa’s *Dangerous Liaisons* and Jake Heggie’s *Dead Man Walking*, both for San Francisco Opera.

An unparalleled recitalist, von Stade’s repertoire encompasses a rich variety, from classical to Broadway popular songs to Italian “Arie antiche” to contemporary music composed especially for her. Her more than 70 recordings include operatic, symphonic, solo and popular crossover works; she has garnered six Grammy nominations, two Grand Prix du Disc awards, the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis and Italy’s Premio della Critica Discografica.

Von Stade has appeared regularly on television through PBS and other broadcasts. She performed at the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games. In 2001, she participated in the opening of Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in concert with Sir Elton John, André Watts and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

In 1998, von Stade was awarded France’s highest honor in the Arts when she was appointed as an officer of L’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres; in 1983, President Reagan presented her with an award recognizing her significant contribution to the arts.