

Solmaaz Adeli mezzo-soprano

Equally at home on the opera stage as the soloist concert stage, Solmaaz Adeli, has been praised for her wide range, agility and the luster of her timbre. Her voice spans three octaves, thus allowing her to have an expansive repertoire ranging from Baroque to 21st Century Opera.

Solmaaz debuted Glucks Orfeo with the Virtuosi Summer Music Festival in Connecticut under Maestro Adrian Sylveen, as well as Ravels Conception in LHeure Espagnole in a collaboration with the Opera Academy of California and Island City Opera in the 2016/17 Season.

Summer 2017 took her to Vienna for a performance of the Austrian and American National Anthems at the US Embassys Independence Day Celebration for an audience of 3,000.

She is honored have begun 2017 as a Fellow in Songfests Intensive Vienna in the Valley working with esteemed Graham Johnson, Sir Thomas Allen, Susanne Mentzer, and Stewart Robertson on Brittens Lucretia, R. Strauss Octavian, and J. Strauss Prince Orlofsky as well as the Lieder of Schubert and Mahler.

She performs regularly in recital at Stanford for the Bing Music Series and kicks off the Fall 2017 Season with a concert titled Latin Lovers with the Santa Cruz Chamber Players in a program of Berlioz, Bizet, Ravel, Villa-Lobos, Vivaldi, and others.

An avid performer of Contemporary music, Solmaaz was the Alto soloist under the baton of Shulamit Hoffmann in the West Coast premiere of Norwegian composer Kim Andre Arnesens Requiem and she and the Santa Cruz Chamber Players gave the world premiere of Dolcissime Suite by Grammy Award Winning Barry Phillips - a piece in which they placed as semi-finalist 2016 winners of The American Prize.

Solmaaz Adeli gave her debut as Flora at the Vienna Chamber Opera in Tomaso Albinonis Baroque opera Il Nascimento dellAurora. She created the title role in Francois Pierre Descamps new opera Zumurrud and the role of Subaida in Rene Clemencics new opera Harun und Djafar with the Sirene Operntheater at the Vienna Chamber Music Festival under director Kristine Tornquist.

Among Solmaazs highlights have been performances for the Special Olympics World Games Los Angeles 2015, a commemoration of The Sound of Music held by the US Embassy of Vienna, and arias from Carmen with members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Janoska Ensemble, in Austrias Licht ins Dunkel campaign where they recorded White Christmas on ORF television on Christmas Eve.

Solmaaz also sang the American National Anthem for the US Embassy of Viennas 10th Commemoration Ceremony of 9/11, which was broadcast on ORF, Austrian National Television.

Concert appearances and recitals have taken her to perform arias from Carmen at the Vienna State Operas Marmorsaal, American Song at the US Embassy of Vienna, Vivaldi at the Palais Belvedere, British Art Song at the British Embassy of Vienna, newly composed I Breathed a Song by Christopher J. Hoh in the Brahms-Saal at the Wiener Musikverein, Lieder at the Austrian American Council West, and Bachs B-minor Mass with the Capella Leopoldina in Graz.

Julie Poklewski

began teaching piano classes when she was seventeen. Her mom, a concert pianist, had gone on tour to Spain, and while she was away, Julie took on her moms piano students so they wouldnt miss out on their lessons. She later went on to earn her B.M. degree in Piano Performance and her M.A. in Piano Pedagogy.

Her love for teaching only grew from there. From holding lessons out of her own house, Julie expanded into program development: facilitating group classes, organizing recitals, and hosting guest speakers to talk about history and composition to her students. Julie has been teaching and developing music programs ever since. In August of 2020, Julie founded Opus11 School of Music, together with her husband, Alex Poklewski.

Julie has worked as a collaborative pianist with various choirs, musicals, and soloists, including the Vivace Youth Chorus since its inception in 2003. For six years, she has served as president of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Santa Clara Chapter. Within MTNA, she started several successful adult recitals and an emerging artists recital series. Julie is also executive director of the San Jose International Piano Competition.