



**Songs & Spirituals from the American Experience
Starring Cheryse McLeod Lewis**

SELECTED REVIEWS

CONCERT REVIEWS

Eleganza

“It was a proud moment for Piccolo as the audience gave a standing ovation to the gifted [soprano and mezzo-soprano] who we can only hope will make a return appearance in years to come.”

--- Dee Dee Arthur, *Charleston City Paper* (2011 Piccolo Spoleto Festival)

Inspirata

“They had me mesmerized and now I can’t get enough of them.”

--- St. Augustine Art Critic

“There are no words to describe the thrill...the beauty...the excitement!!! They directly touch the soul!”

--- Meredith Creswell, *Pennsylvania Reviewer*

“Phenomenal! What music in Heaven must sound like!”

--- Martin Baer, MD, Las Vegas, NV

“Exquisitely beautiful.”

--- Thomas Platt, Hibernia Baptist Church, Fleming Island, FL

OPERA REVIEWS

Carmen in *Carmen*

"The rich, powerful mezzo-soprano of Cheryse McLeod [Lewis] in the title role offered a convincing portrayal of the many sides of Carmen, from her flirtatiousness and fickleness to the dark side of her character, revealed in her unfaithfulness to Don Jose and her pursuit of the torero Don Escamillo. [Lewis]' voice moved effortlessly from laughing flirtation to her frank expressions of interest in most men whom she encountered; and her expressions of Carmen's fiery emotional reactions when her motivations were questioned filled the hall with stunning vocal power."

---- Martha A. Fawbush, *Asheville Citizen-Times*

For Booking Information, Contact Alkahest Artists & Attractions:
www.alkahestartists.net ~ 888.728.8989 ~ info@alkahestartists.net

Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel*

"Cheryse McLeod [Lewis]...produced rich lyric-mezzo sound...and gave endearing characterizations, moving well under Wendy Taucher's sensible direction."

--- David Shengold, *Opera News Online*

Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*

"I was delighted with the bored aristocrat of mezzo-soprano Cheryse McLeod [Lewis] in the pants role of Prince Orlofsky;... Her fake accent was good, her use of her lower range made the pants role more convincing than usual and her body language was in character."

--- William Thomas Walker, *Classical Voice of North Carolina*

"Cheryse McLeod [Lewis] sings the prince's part in her clear mezzo-soprano voice."

--- Abe D. Jones, Jr., *Greensboro News & Record*

Jazz Singer in *Picnic (World Premiere Opera by Libby Larsen)*

"Act I was opened dramatically with sultry lyric mezzo-soprano Cheryse McLeod Lewis."

--- William Thomas Walker, *Classical Voice of North Carolina*

"Fronting the band in good style was mezzo-soprano Cheryse McLeod Lewis."

Tim Lindeman, *Greensboro News & Record*

Agnese del Maino in *Beatrice di Tenda*

"Cheryse McLeod [Lewis] brings to Agnese a big, clear mezzo with a striking stage presence."

--- Roy C. Dicks, *Raleigh News & Observer*

"[Cheryse] McLeod [Lewis] has a rich, large voice..."

--- Elizabeth and Joe Kahn, *Classical Voice of North Carolina*

The Secretary in *The Consul*

"Cheryse McLeod [Lewis]' singing of the secretary was excellent and perfectly efficient, and her proper and dispassionate demeanor was well suited to the role."

--- Tim Lindeman, *Greensboro News & Record*

Alisa in *Lucia di Lammermoor*

"The best of the others was Cheryse McLeod [Lewis]' rich-voiced Alisa."

--- David Shengold, *Opera News Online*

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY/SCHOOL REVIEWS:

Fayetteville State University (Fayetteville, NC)

"A wonderful musician and singer who served as a great example for our students."

--- Dr. Robert W. Williams – Associate Professor of Music – Fayetteville State University

"Her kind spirit shines through during her instruction and in her awe-inspiring voice."

--- Allyssa Hubbard – Music Student – Fayetteville State University

"Great singer, performer, such a delight just watching her, so beautiful, so talented."

--- Rina Ullrich – Music Student – Fayetteville State University

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North Carolina A&T State University (Greensboro, NC)

"A wonderful expression of beauty, talent, and purpose...[her] presence was commanding yet inviting...The vocal students of NC A&T really enjoyed the performance and masterclass."

--- William Trice – Instructor of Voice – NC A&T State University

"[The] recital, workshop, and masterclass were a very helpful experience for me. I never thought I'd be able to learn so much in just three days...very inspiring and down-to-earth."

--- Vanessa Ferguson – Voice Performance Major – NC A&T State University

Greensboro Day School (Greensboro, NC)

“Cheryse is one of the most talented and gracious women I have ever met. Her voice is as warm and expressive as her personality. We are so fortunate that she is willing to share her enormous talent and work ethic with our young students.”

--- Judy McLaughlin – Music Department Chair – Greensboro Day School

“Cheryse is a talented performer and teacher with a heart of gold. She inspires, uplifts, and compels her students and colleagues by her words and actions. As an educator, Cheryse communicates clearly and effectively in a non-judgmental way. She has a wonderful balance of professionalism and compassion.”

--- Sonny Willis – Lower School Drama Director & Middle/Upper School Choral Director, Greensboro Day School