Rihab Chaieb

Mezzo-Soprano

Tunisian-Canadian mezzo-soprano Rihab Chaieb has drawn international recognition for her clear, sensuous vocal tone and her dramatic flair. With a versatile instrument that allows her to shine in repertoire from Monteverdi, Handel and Mozart through Bizet, Verdi and Glass, the Canadian mezzo is a prominent new talent on the world’s major stages.

In the 2022/23 season, Chaieb makes both notable debuts and anticipated returns: she brings her acclaimed interpretation of Carmen to both the Canadian Opera Company and Calgary Opera and makes her LA Opera debut as Cherubino in James Gray’s new production of *Le nozze di Figaro*, conducted by James Conlon. At Grand Théâtre de Genève she appears as La mère Meryem in the world-premiere of Christian Jost’s *Voyage vers l’espoir* and makes her Bayerische Staatsoper debut as Fenena in Verdi’s *Nabucco,* conducted by Daniele Rustioni.

A regular performer on the concert platform, this season Rihab Chaieb joins Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Richard Egarr in Handel’s *Messiah*, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Otto Tausk for Berlioz’s *Les nuits d’été,* and with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, she performs her first Ruggiero in Handel’s *Alcina*. In recital, she performs alongside pianist Brian Zeger at the Kennedy Center, presented by Vocal Arts DC and joins pianist Valeria Polunina for a first performance in Tallinn, Estonia.

The 2021/22 season included Rihab Chaieb’s debut at Washington National Opera as Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, her first Penelope for a European concert tour and recording of *Il ritorno d’Ulisse in patria* with Ensemble I Gemelli, a return to Opéra National de Montpellier as Maddalena in Marie-Eve Signeyrole’s new staging of *Rigoletto*, a debut at Palm Beach Opera in the title role of Carmen, and a return to The Metropolitan Opera as Nefertiti in Phelim McDermott’s revelatory production of Philip Glass’ *Akhnaten*, conducted by Karen Kamensek.

In recent seasons, Chaieb’s versatility has led to her debut as Charlotte in *Werther* at Opera Vlaanderen under Giedrė Šlekytė, at Houston Grand Opera in the world premiere of Tarik O’Regan’s *The Phoenix*, as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Cincinnati Opera and as Offenbach’s *Fantasio*at Opéra de Montpellier. For Dutch National Opera, Chaieb sang Lola in Robert Carsen’s new staging of *Cavalleria Rusticana* under Lorenzo Viotti, Dorabella at Teatro Santiago de Chile, Kasturbai in Philip Glass’ *Satyagraha*at Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, and received unanimous acclaim for her first Carmen in Lydia Steier’s intense new production for Oper Köln.

On the concert stage, Rihab Chaieb has performed with Orchestre symphonique de Montréal under Johannes Debus in Mahler’s *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* and in a programme of Rossini under Kent Nagano; with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in Handel’s *Messiah* and under Music Director Gustavo Gimeno in Beethoven’s Symphony No.9; with both Vancouver Symphony Orchestra under Otto Tausk and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Carlos Miguel Prieto in de Falla’s *Three-Cornered Hat*; and at the Toronto Summer Music Festival in her first *Das Lied von der Erde* which she recently reprised at the Rockport Music Festival. She recorded both Bach's Mass in B minorand Beethoven's Symphony No.9 for two audio-visual recordings with Orchestre Métropolitain under Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the latter released on Deutsche Grammophon's online platform DG Stage. This past season she reprised Beethoven’s Symphony No.9 with Nézet-Séguin and The Philadelphia Orchestra at Carnegie Hall.

Rihab Chaieb is a former member of the The Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Program, where she has appeared in numerous productions, including *L’italiana in Algeri* (Zulma), *Luisa Miller*(Laura), *Cavalleria Rusticana*(Lola) and *Hänsel und Gretel*(Sandmännchen) and has returned since as a guest in *Don Giovanni* (Zerlina) under Cornelius Meister. Also a former member of the Canadian Opera Company’s Ensemble Studio, she earned major acclaim as Sesto (*La clemenza di Tito*)and San Francisco Opera’s Merola Opera Program, where she debuted as Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Chaieb has also enjoyed several summers at the Glyndebourne Festival as Mércedès (*Carmen*) under Jakub Hrůša, and Flora (*La traviata*) under Andrés Orozco-Estrada.

The recipient of many major grants, Chaieb is also a seasoned competitor, taking Third Prize at the 2018 Operalia Competition, winning the 2016 Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition, and taking prizes at both the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the 2018 George London Foundation Competition.