

Layna Chianakas

451 Heathcliff Place, San Jose, CA 95111

408.655.0892

ChianakasStudio@gmail.com

The Chianakas Studio

Stage Director, Voice Teacher, Mezzo-Soprano

RÉSUMÉ

EDUCATION

- ❖ 1992-1995, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, *Master of Music in Vocal Performance*
- ❖ 1987-1991, Kassel, Germany, *Private vocal study*
- ❖ 1987, University of Miami, *Summer in Salzburg*
- ❖ 1987, Mozarteum, Salzburg, Austria, *Künstlerisches Diplom des Gesangs*
- ❖ 1985-1987, University of Alabama-Birmingham, *Bachelor of Arts in Music*
- ❖ 1983-1985, Illinois State University

ACADEMIA

- ❖ 2020-2021, Lecturer, Fresno State University
- ❖ 2018-2020, Voice Teacher and Stage Director, Assyrian Arts Institute
- ❖ 2018-present, Vocal Director of Musical Theater, Valley Christian High School Conservatory
- ❖ 2008-2018, Associate Professor of Voice, Voice Area Coordinator, Director of Opera Theater, San José State University
- ❖ 1997-present, Private voice studio
- ❖ 2017, West Valley College, Master Class
- ❖ 2017, Music Teachers Association Convention, Santa Clara, Master Class
- ❖ 2017, Stanislaus State University, Master Class
- ❖ 2016, *Classes Without Quizzes*, Group voice lesson for SJSU Alumni
- ❖ 2015-present, Voice Teacher, Valley Christian Conservatory, San Jose, CA
- ❖ 2011, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati, OH, Master Class
- ❖ 2010, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, Master Class
- ❖ 2009, Valley Christian High School Conservatory, San Jose, CA, Master Class
- ❖ 2009, Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA, Master Class
- ❖ 2009, West Valley College, Saratoga, CA, Master Class
- ❖ 2009, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, Master Class
- ❖ 2008, Cosumnes River College, Sacramento, CA, Master Class

ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS

- ❖ 2018-2020, *Artistic Director, Assyrian Arts Institute*
Duties: Mainstreaming of the Assyrian culture into American/Global society, produce concerts, Keynote speeches, work with agents, maintain budget, recruit singers, work closely with local Assyrian organizations, institute liaison with venue organizers and artists
- ❖ 2016-2017, *Director of Opera San Jose Summer Program for Singers and Pianists:*
Duties: Organize all applications, organize preliminary and final auditions, hiring of- and contracting of- all clinicians, daily scheduling, and creation of *Summer Scenes* final culminating performance
- ❖ 2010-2018, *Voice Area Coordinator, San Jose State University:*
Duties: Organize all incoming voice auditions, follow-up and recruitment of new students, hiring of part time voice instructors, general overseeing of all students in the Voice Area, coordinate collaborative interdepartmental and intercollegiate productions and events, resolving conflicts
- ❖ 2010-2018, *Committee Member and Chair, San Jose State University:*
Duties: Serve on various departmental and college committees as well as serve as chairperson. General administrative duties such as meeting scheduling, interviewing, report review

- ❖ 2011-2018, **Director of San Jose State Opera Theatre:**
Duties: Stage director, producer, marketing coordinator for all productions. Provided all fundraising for the program and acquired and maintained donors.
- ❖ 2008-2018, **Director of the San Jose Music Study Club Scholarship at SJSU:**
Duties: Organize all music student applications, create the program, acquire judges
- ❖ 2008-2018, **Director of the San Jose Woman's Club Vocal Scholarship at SJSU:**
Duties: Organize all music students, create the program, acquire judges

STAGE EXPERIENCE

2022	Emilia	<i>Otello</i>	Livermore Valley Opera
2019	Filipyevna	<i>Eugene Onegin</i>	Livermore Valley Opera
2019	Mme Larina	<i>Eugene Onegin</i>	Intermountain Opera
2018	Ruth	<i>Pirates of Penzance</i>	Intermountain Opera
2017	Secretary	<i>The Consul</i>	Dayton Opera
2016	Soloist	<i>Season Opener</i>	Dayton Opera
2015	Principessa	<i>SuorAngelica</i>	Intermountain Opera
2015	Zita	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	
2014	Amneris	<i>Aida</i>	Dayton Opera
2012	His Mother	<i>Amahl & the Night Visitors</i>	San José State Opera Theatre/ Choral Department
2012	His Mother	<i>Amahl & the Night Visitors</i>	Intermountain Opera
2012	Orphée	<i>Orphée et Eurydice</i>	Opera Santa Barbara
2012	Suzuki	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Intermountain Opera
2011	Soloist	<i>Dayton Opera Gala</i>	Dayton Opera
2011	Anna I	<i>Seven Deadly Sins</i>	CSU East Bay
2010	Soloist	<i>Intermnt'n Opera Gala</i>	Intermountain Opera
2009	Carmen	<i>Carmen</i>	Treasure Coast Opera Society
2008	Soloist	<i>Opera San José Gala</i>	Opera San José
2008	Rosina	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Livermore Valley Opera
2008	Santuzza	<i>Cavalleria Rusticana</i>	Opera Santa Barbara

RECITAL, ORATORIO AND ORCHESTRAL EXPERIENCE

- ❖ 2018 *La Damoiselle élue*, by Debussy, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist, Symphony Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA
- ❖ 2018 *Symphony No. 4*, by Johan De Meij, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist, San José Wind Symphony, San José, CA
- ❖ 2018 *Symphony No. 1, Jeremiah Symphony*, by Bernstein, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Dayton, OH
- ❖ 2017 *Recital* with Joseph Wiggert, Baritone, CSU Stanislaus, CA
- ❖ 2017 *Recital* with Simona Snitkovskaya, Music Teachers Association Conference, Santa Clara, CA
- ❖ 2017 *Stabat Mater*, by Rossini, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist, Sacramento Orchestra and Choral Society, Sacramento, CA
- ❖ 2016 *Lord Nelson Mass*, by Haydn, Alto Soloist, Limerick Sings Music Festival, Limerick, Ireland
- ❖ 2015 *Soloist*, Set of Spirituals, San Jose State University, Carnegie Hall, NYC
- ❖ 2014 *Folk Songs*, by Berio, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist, Winchester Orchestra, San Jose, CA
- ❖ 2014 *Chansons madecasses*, by Ravel, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist, Alliance Francais French Festival, Palo Alto, CA
- ❖ 2014 *Songs of a Wayfarer*, by Mahler, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist, Master Sinfonia Orchestra, Los Altos, CA
- ❖ 2013 *Requiem*, by Verdi, Mezzo-Soprano Soloist, Symphony Silicon Valley
- ❖ 2012 *Stabat Mater*, by Rossini Mezzo-Soprano Soloist, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra
- ❖ 2012 *The Voice of Opera*, Opera Arias and Duets with Scott Piper, Tenor Fresno Youth Symphony, Fresno, CA

STAGE DIRECTING

- ❖ 2023 *The Light In the Piazza*, Opera Santa Barbara Chrisman Studio Artists
- ❖ 2023 *La Boheme*, Santa Cruz Opera Project
- ❖ 2022 *Madama Butterfly*, Lubbock Symphony Orchestra
- ❖ 2022 *Pirates of Penzance* (reduced version) Opera Santa Barbara Chrisman Studio Artists
- ❖ 2022 *Tosca*, Opera Santa Barbara
- ❖ 2022 *Scenes Program of Musical Theater and Light Opera*, Vivace Vocal Bootcamp, Vivace Youth Chorus of San Jose
- ❖ 2022 *Speed Dating, Tonight!*, Opera Santa Barbara Chrisman Studio Artists
- ❖ 2021 *El amor brujo* and *Il Tabarro*, Opera Santa Barbara
- ❖ 2021 *At the Statue of Venus* by Jake Heggie, Opera Santa Barbara Young Artist Program
- ❖ 2020 *Eine florentinische Tragödie* and *Gianni Schicchi*, Livermore Valley Opera, CA
- ❖ 2019 *Nabucco*, West Bay Opera
- ❖ 2019 *Hansel & Gretel*, Opera San Jose
- ❖ 2019 *Odyssey*, Opera Santa Barbara Summer Youth Opera
- ❖ 2018 *Rootabaga Country*, Vivace Youth Chorus Summer Opera Program
- ❖ 2018 *Die Fledermaus* or *The Revenge of the Bat*, San José State Opera Theatre
- ❖ 2017 *Brundibár*, Vivace Youth Chorus Summer Opera Program
- ❖ 2017 *Elijah*, fully-stage production for SJSU School of Music and Dance and Digital Media Art
- ❖ 2017 *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges/The Bewitched Child*, San Jose State Opera Theatre
- ❖ 2017 *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Opera San Jose
- ❖ 2016 *Postcard from Morocco*, San Jose State Opera Theatre
- ❖ 2016 *Chip and His Dog*, Vivace Summer Opera Program
- ❖ 2016 *Carmen*, Opera San Jose
- ❖ 2015 *Orfeo ed Euridice*, San Jose State Opera Theatre
- ❖ 2014 *Orpheus in the Underworld*, San Jose State Opera Theatre
- ❖ 2012 *L'Ormindo*, San Jose State Opera Theatre
- ❖ 2012 *Hansel & Gretel*, Opera San Jose
- ❖ 2012 *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Intermountain Opera & San Jose State Opera Theatre
- ❖ 2011 *Le nozze de Figaro*, San Jose State Opera Theatre
- ❖ 2011 *La Voix humaine* Opera San Jose

VOCAL DIRECTION

- ❖ Valley Christian High School Theatre, San Jose, CA
 - Hello, Dolly!*
 - Mary Poppins*
 - Godspell*
 - Found: A Musical Revue*
 - Guys & Dolls, Jr*
 - The Addams Family*
 - The Pajama Game*

AWARDS

- ❖ 2022, Best New Discovery: Livermore Valley Opera, San Francisco Classical Voice Audience Choice Awards
 - Otello* by Giuseppe Verdi
- ❖ 2021, First Place, The American Prize for Opera Production
 - Eine florentinische Tragödie/A Florentine Tragedy* by Alexander von Zemlinsky and *Gianni Schicchi* by Giacomo Puccini
 - Livermore Valley Opera, Erie Mills, Artistic Director
- ❖ 2016, 3rd Place, National Opera Association Award for Outstanding University Opera Theater Production
 - Postcard from Morocco* by Dominic Argento, San Jose State Opera Theater
- ❖ *Honored Appointment of United States Artistic Ambassador*, Concert tour and master classes throughout Central and South America, and the West Indies

RECORDINGS

- ❖ 2016 *20th Anniversary of San José Chamber Orchestra*
- ❖ 2011 *Choose Life* by *Mona Lyn Reese*
- ❖ 2008 *Artifacts*, DuoWest and Layna Chianakas, mezzo-soprano
- ❖ 2004 *I Recognized Your Face*, Layna Chianakas, mezzo-soprano, Craig Bohmler, piano
- ❖ 2004 *San José Chamber Orchestra, Works by Craig Bohmler*

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- ❖ 2018-Current, Board of Directors/Vice Chairperson, Resounding Achord Productions
- ❖ 2011-2016, Board of Directors, San José Chamber Orchestra
- ❖ Opera America
- ❖ National Opera Association
- ❖ National Association of Teachers of Singing, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
- ❖ College Music Society
- ❖ Musical America
- ❖ Delta Omicron Music Fraternity

LANGUAGES

- ❖ English, native
- ❖ German, fluent
- ❖ French, conversational
- ❖ Italian, conversational
- ❖ Arabic, conversational