

Leslie Middlebrook

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Short Biography

Mezzo-Soprano, Leslie Middlebrook has been winning recognition and acclaim throughout the United States and Europe from critics and audiences alike. She appeared at **The Bach to Bartok International Music Festival** in Imola, Italy where she made her recital debut at the historic Palazzo Tozzoni, and was alto soloist in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Verdi's *Requiem*. Her European opera debut was in Bremen, Germany in the title roles on a double bill of Menotti's *The Medium* and *The Old Maid and the Thief*. She also performed in Austria with **Vienna Kammeroper**. In the U.S. she has sung with the **Virginia, Berkshire, Des Moines, NJ Verismo** and **Harrisburg Operas**, among others in roles ranging from *Orlofsky* in *Die Fledermaus* and *Amneris* in *Aida* to *La Principessa* in *Suor Angelica* and *Katisha* in *The Mikado*. Ms. Middlebrook's frequent concert and oratorio engagements include her **Carnegie Hall** debut as alto soloist in the U.S premiere of Sir Eugene Goosen's re-orchestration of *The Messiah*, with **The New England Symphonic Ensemble**, alto soloist in Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with the **St. Thomas More Chamber Orchestra**, Harvey Burgett conducting and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonelle* with the **Brooklyn Philharmonia**. She sang the world premiere of Margarita Zelenia's *Mother's Lamentations for Mezzo-Soprano and Strings* with **One World Symphony** which was also broadcast on international satellite television. In recent seasons Ms. Middlebrook has emerged as a Wagnerian Mezzo, having performed all the major mezzo roles in *The Ring Cycle*, as well as other operas with the **Wagner Festival Orchestra** of New York, David Gilbert, conductor. She appears with "*La Serenata*" in concert and *A Victorian Evening of Romance Poetry & Song* on tour. With extensive musical theatre credits, Ms. Middlebrook has appeared Off-Broadway, in regional theatre and with the **NY Pops Orchestra at Carnegie Hall**. She received her Masters of Music From Manhattan School of Music.

" Gave a **riveting and decisive performance** in a complex role." — Weser Kurier, Bremen, Germany

"Leslie Middlebrook ...makes a striking entrance in the first act. She has a **commanding presence** and a rich confident voice." — The Denver Post

"With a **first rate voice** and **exceptional acting** ability Leslie Middlebrook was more than effective as part of the madness." — Richmond Times-Dispatch

"Leslie Middlebrook delivered charmingly in a **big, rich, textured mezzo-soprano with assured vocal technique and stage-craft to match** ." — Frank Merkling, Arts Critic, Danbury News-Times

"Leslie Middlebrook's Mrs. McLean was **powerfully sung** as she got inside the character's never fully stated need to bring down beauty..." — Newark Star Ledger

"**Excellent** in her important supporting role was Leslie Middlebrook who portrayed Mrs. McLean, the meanest of the villagers." — Berkshire Gazette

"**Particularly entertaining and droll** was the domineering and angular Duchess of Leslie Middlebrook" — SavoyNet