

# ANNE MCKENNA

## SOPRANO

As composer/conductor David Amram's vocal artist of choice, she has enjoyed many years of collaboration with him in orchestral and chamber performances of Mr. Amram's own works for solo voice, in addition to classical and popular repertoire, for audiences of all kinds. This past November at Lincoln Center, she performed selections from Mr. Amram's Shakespeare songs to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the New York Shakespeare Festival. At Mr. Amram's popular birthday concerts, she has collaborated with Mr. Amram and other artist friends of the composer, such as Odetta, Frank McCourt, Pete Seeger, Malachy McCourt, Judy Collins, Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara. She has performed with Mr. Amram in venues throughout the 5 boroughs as part of Jacques D'Amboise's *National Dance Institute's Event of the Year*, featuring original scores by Mr. Amram. In addition to orchestral and recital performances with Mr. Amram, she performed his chamber piece for solo voice set to speeches of Chief Sitting Bull, *Trail of Beauty*, at a Thanksgiving concert at St. John the Divine, in which performers from many Native American tribes participated. On Broadway with Mr. Amram, she performed in staged readings of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* with a score of legendary stars of the American stage, including Jason Robards, Eli Wallach, Christopher Plummer, Richard Kiley, Anne Jackson, Maureen Stapleton, Julie Harris, and E.G. Marshall as the annual benefit for The Actor's Fund.

Anne McKenna's diverse performing career began with her Chautauqua Opera debut as Papagena. She has since embraced a wealth of operatic roles ranging from the Italian Baroque to the American contemporary, as well as numerous musical theatre and operetta roles. Her keen interest in the development of new works was fostered by engagements with the Eugene O'Neill Composer/Librettist Conference in Waterford, and the Encompass Theatre and the Vineyard Theatre in New York City.

She was honored to be selected to sing with Hermann Prey in the New York YMHA's distinguished *Schubertiade* series, with conductor Bruno Weil. She is a frequent oratorio soloist in the Tri State area, specializing in Handel, Mozart, and Bach. She has been the soprano soloist with numerous symphony orchestras, including outreach concerts for young audiences with Mr. Amram and the Brooklyn Philharmonic at B.A.M., and pops evenings celebrating classic works of the American musical theatre with the symphonies of Jacksonville, Florida, Stamford, Connecticut, and the Charles Ives Center for the Arts.

A native of California, she received her musical training at Smith College and in Germany.