

ENCOMPASS



ARTS, LLC

KATHERINE OLSEN

Pianist/Coach

Katherine Olsen is one of the most famous and sought-after opera coach/accompanists in the world today. Throughout her professional career she has been involved with every aspect of singer development and career counseling. With the creation of Encompass Arts, Ms. Olsen embarks upon the logical next step in her career path.

Her opera credits include positions at many companies in both the United States and Europe including, but are not limited to: Knoxville Opera, Orlando Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Tulsa Opera, Virginia Opera, Palm Beach Opera, The Opera of Macao, China and the *Opern Air* Festival in Gars, Austria.

In 1998 she accepted the position of Artistic Administrator for Orlando Opera, a company with which she continues to work closely. In 2001 she was offered the position of Principle Coach and Artistic Administrator for Baz Luhrmann's Tony Award-winning production of Puccini's *La Bohème*. She worked closely with the company in both the pre-production phase and during the performance runs in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles. Ms. Olsen was part of the casting team responsible for hiring both principle artists and chorus. Several of the young artists she selected for *La Bohème* have gone on to further operatic achievements including: Operalia-winner Joe Kaiser, who portrays Tamino in Kenneth Branagh's upcoming film *The Magic Flute*, conducted by James Conlon; Ben Davis who portrays Papageno in the same film; and David Miller, now a recording artist with the group *Il Divo*.

Ms. Olsen has played for and adjudicated many prestigious vocal competitions including: The MacAllister Awards, The Puccini Competition, The George London Awards, The Richard Tucker Foundation, The Reyfuss Competition, The United Negro Spiritual Foundation, and *Voci Verdiane*-Busetto, Italy. As a pianist she has collaborated with such artists as: Ben Heppner, Leona Mitchell, Sherrill Milnes, Cheryl Studer, Gary Lakes, Barbara Daniels, Harolyn Blackwell, Renata Scotto, and Riccardo Caruso (great-grandson of Enrico Caruso).

Over the course of her career, she has been involved with many teaching programs and masterclasses with: Renata Scotto, Sherrill Milnes, Martina Arroyo and Regina Resnik, to name a few. She has been on the staff of numerous summer programs including: *Opern Air Gars*, Voice Experience, Berkshire Opera Young Artists Program, Mary Hardin-Baylor, and University of Tennessee.

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Ms. Olsen has written articles and been interviewed numerous times on the subject of accompanying by: *Keyboard Magazine*, *Classical Singer Magazine* and *The Christian Science Monitor*. She holds both a Bachelor of Music (1973-77) and a Masters Degree (1977-79) in Piano Performance and received a staff position at the University of Tennessee as an accompanist. In 1982 she was hired by the Juilliard School's prestigious American Opera Center. An appointment to the music staff of the Lyric Opera of Chicago followed in 1989. Ms. Olsen returned to New York for the birth of her daughter and has maintained a successful vocal studio there for the past 25 years.