



**AUDREY BABCOCK**  
**MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Mezzo-soprano Audrey Babcock is quickly gaining momentous acclaim as a fresh and vibrant interpreter of *Carmen*. Her richly hued voice, commanding presence, alluring body language, and sharply honed acting skills give her performances startling poignancy and depth, making her a sought after figure on the operatic scene.

Ms. Babcock started her 2010-2011 season in *Rigoletto* as Maddalena with Virginia Opera, followed by the title role in *Carmen* with Opera Naples, Nashville Opera and the Buck Hill Festival, Jo in *Little Women* (Utah Opera), and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lady in *Die*

*Zauberflöte* (Spoleto Festival, USA). This past summer marked her debut with Opera New Jersey as the Secretary in Menotti's *The Consul* where the Star Ledger noted that, "...Babcock stood out with a radiant Mezzo-Soprano and a fittingly tart sense of humor." Future engagements include her return to Tulsa Opera as Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly*, *The Poe Project* with American Lyric Theatre, her debut as Erika in Barber's *Vanessa* (Sarasota Opera), Maddalena in *Rigoletto* (Saratoga Opera) and her return to Florentine Opera for the title role in *Carmen*.

Her engagements for 2009-2010 included *Rigoletto* with Nashville Opera, Florentine Opera and Tulsa Opera, as well as Aldonza/Dulcinea in *Man of La Mancha* (Shreveport Opera), and *Carmen* (Wichita Grand Opera). Ms. Babcock also made her European debut in *Carmen* with the Savonlinna Opera Festival in 2010.

Engagements for the 2008 season included *Carmen* (San Antonio Opera) where the *SACurrent* said, "Babcock's voice is sultry and pillowy...she screamed sex", Maddalena (Toledo Opera), and the World Premier of the one woman show, "*Lily; her life, his music*" at Dicapo Opera. Ms. Babcock also sang Dorabella in *Così Fan Tutte* (Opera Idaho), Jo in *Little Women* ("Artist of the Year" award, Syracuse Opera), Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Utah Festival Opera), and *Carmen* in *Carmen* (Utah Festival Opera). Ms. Babcock also appeared as Aldonza/Dulcinea in *Man of La Mancha* (Lyric Opera of San Diego), The Third Lady in *The Magic Flute* (Opera Pacific), Flora in *La Traviata* (Cincinnati Opera) and the title role in *Carmen* with both Toledo Opera and Intermountain Opera.

In the 2006-2007 season Ms. Babcock was featured in a televised concert series with world-renowned singer, Regina Resnik. Other season highlights include the title role in the New York Premier of Tobias Picker's *Thérèse Raquin* (Dicapo Opera), *Carmen* in *The Tragedy of Carmen* (Opera on the James), and Aldonza/Dulcinea in *Man of La Mancha* (Utah Festival Opera). Ms. Babcock has also performed with New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and The New World Symphony. Ms. Babcock is equally noteworthy in her symphonic concert and recital engagements, which have included Verdi's *Requiem* (Charleston Symphony and the West Virginia Symphony), Bethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony (Eugene Symphony Orchestra), Mahler's Symphony No. 2 (National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica), "Viva Verdi!" (Mobile Opera), "Murder and other Operatic Mayhem" (National Symphony Orchestra), and "Where the Boys Are" with musical director, Steve Blier.

Ms. Babcock is a winner of the George London Award, the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation award, and an Opera Index Encouragement Award. She was also a Metropolitan Opera Regional Finalist two years in a row. She was a first place winner in the Friday Morning Music Club Washington International Voice Competition and placed in the Florida Grand YPO Voice Competition, Palm Beach Opera Voice Competition, and the Liederkrantz Foundation Scholarship Award. Recording under the name Aviva, Ms. Babcock has released her debut album with Global Perspective Records called *Songs for Carmen*, a collection of works inspired by the character *Carmen*, and tours with Flamenco guitarist, Dan Nadel in a concert called "Beyond Carmen". [www.aviva-music.com](http://www.aviva-music.com)

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OPERA

|                  |                              |                                      |      |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Carmen           | <i>Carmen</i>                | Florentine Opera                     | 2012 |
| Maddalena        | <i>Rigoletto</i>             | Saratoga Opera                       | 2012 |
| Suzuki           | <i>Madame Butterfly</i>      | Tulsa Opera                          | 2012 |
| Erika            | <i>Vanessa</i>               | Sarasota Opera                       | 2012 |
| Secretary        | <i>The Consul</i>            | Opera New Jersey                     | 2011 |
| Carmen           | <i>Carmen</i>                | Buck Hill Festival                   | 2011 |
| 2nd Lady         | <i>Die Zauberflote</i>       | Spoletto USA                         | 2011 |
| Carmen           | <i>Carmen</i>                | Nashville Opera                      | 2011 |
| Jo               | <i>Little Women</i>          | Utah Opera                           | 2011 |
| Carmen           | <i>Carmen</i>                | Opera Naples                         | 2011 |
| Maddalena        | <i>Rigoletto</i>             | Virginia Opera                       | 2010 |
| Mercedes         | <i>Carmen</i>                | Savonlinna Opera Festival            | 2010 |
| Maddalena        | <i>Rigoletto</i>             | Florentine Opera                     | 2010 |
| Carmen           | <i>Carmen</i>                | Wichita Grand Opera                  | 2010 |
| Maddalena        | <i>Rigoletto</i>             | Tulsa Opera                          | 2010 |
| Maddalena        | <i>Rigoletto</i>             | Nashville Opera                      | 2010 |
| Aldonza/Dulcinea | <i>Man of La Mancha</i>      | Shreveport Opera                     | 2009 |
| Carmen           | <i>Carmen</i>                | Utah Festival Opera                  | 2009 |
| Lola             | <i>Cavalleria Rusticana</i>  | Utah Festival Opera                  | 2009 |
| Jo               | <i>Little Women</i>          | Syracuse Opera                       | 2009 |
| Dorabella        | <i>Cosi fan tutte</i>        | Opera Idaho                          | 2009 |
| Maddalena        | <i>Rigoletto</i>             | Toledo Opera                         | 2008 |
| Carmen           | <i>Carmen</i>                | San Antonio Opera                    | 2008 |
| Flora            | <i>La traviata</i>           | Cincinnati Opera                     | 2008 |
| Carmen           | <i>Carmen</i>                | Intermountain Opera                  | 2008 |
| Third Lady       | <i>The Magic Flute</i>       | Opera Pacific                        | 2008 |
| Carmen           | <i>Carmen</i>                | Toledo Opera                         | 2007 |
| Aldonza/Dulcinea | <i>Man of La Mancha</i>      | Lyric Opera of San Diego             | 2007 |
| Therese Raquin   | <i>Therese Raquin</i>        | Dicapo Opera                         | 2007 |
| Carmen (Cover)   | <i>Carmen</i>                | New York City Opera                  | 2006 |
| Aldonza/Dulcinea | <i>Man of La Mancha</i>      | Utah Festival Opera                  | 2006 |
| Maddalena        | <i>Rigoletto</i>             | Florida Grand Opera                  | 2006 |
| Lola             | <i>Cavalleria Rusticana</i>  | Washington Concert Opera             | 2005 |
| Mrs. Lovett      | <i>Sweeney Todd</i>          | Wolf Trap Opera                      | 2005 |
| Tisbe            | <i>La Cenerentola</i>        | Wolf Trap Opera                      | 2005 |
| Suzuki           | <i>Madama Butterfly</i>      | Mobile Opera                         | 2004 |
| Berta            | <i>The Barber of Seville</i> | Wolf Trap Opera                      | 2003 |
| Carmen           | <i>The Tragedy of Carmen</i> | Florida Grand Opera                  | 2002 |
| Fyodor           | <i>Boris Godunov</i>         | Florida Grand Opera                  | 2002 |
| Zerlina          | <i>Don Giovanni</i>          | Seattle Opera (Young Artist Program) | 2000 |

CONCERTS/ORATORIO

|                         |                                    |  |      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------|
| Soloist                 | Beethoven, <i>Symphony No. 9</i>   | Eugene Symphony                        | 2009 |
| Soloist                 | Mahler, <i>Symphony No. 2</i>      | National Symphony Orchestra Costa Rica | 2009 |
| Soloist                 | Mahler, <i>Songs of a Wayfarer</i> | West Virginia Symphony Orchestra       | 2009 |
| Soloist                 | Verdi, <i>Requiem</i>              | West Virginia Symphony Orchestra       | 2008 |
| Soloist                 | Viva Verdi!                        | Mobile Opera                           | 2005 |
| Soloist                 | Murder and other Operatic Mayhem   | National Symphony Orchestra            | 2005 |
| Alto Soloist            | Magnificat, BWV 80                 | The Southwest Florida Symphony         | 2004 |
| The New York Poets      | American Art Song                  | New York Festival of Song              | 2003 |
| Summer Nights in Vienna | Opera Highlights                   | National Symphony Orchestra            | 2003 |
| Les Nuits D'Eté         | Berlioz                            | Southwest Florida Symphony             | 2003 |

COMPETITIONS

|                                     |                        |      |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------|
| Opera Index                         | Encouragement Award    | 2005 |
| George London Foundation            | Winner                 | 2004 |
| Metropolitan Opera Competition      | Regional Finalist, NYC | 2004 |
| Sullivan Foundation                 | Encouragement Award    | 2003 |
| Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation | First Place            | 2003 |

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**Critical Acclaim**

**Carmen: Nashville Opera**

“Babcock so completely captures Carmen in look, gesture and voice that one stays easily and willingly under her spell all evening. Her character’s famed Act I “Habanera” entrance is tough to pull off given the knowledge and expectations many opera patrons have for it. It’s no problem for Babcock, though, as her full-flavored voice and sultry presence lustily convey Carmen’s fiery persona.”

- The Tennessean

**Carmen: Utah Festival Opera Company**

“Audrey Babcock's performance as Carmen was a spellbinding tour de force. From the moment she took the stage in a scarlet top...her self-assured characterization was mesmerizing. Babcock sang the "Habanera" with understated vocal intensity, but her sensuous body language spoke volumes. Babcock's caramel-hued mezzo was a pleasure...Her supple tones caressed the notes...radiating earthy allure.”

-Salt Lake Tribune

*Carmen* is winner, thanks to spicy, talented Babcock. From the rousing, recognizable prelude, *Carmen* was a treat. And from moment she arrived on stage, Babcock was the beguiling Carmen. With a sly smile — almost a smirk — Carmen showed she knew she was the apple of attention, the star of Seville. So it was Babcock. Her performance seemed almost effortless...”

- Aggie Town Square

**Carmen: Westfield Symphony**

“There was no doubt who owned the stage...as Carmen, she was in character at all times, her eyes smoldering, her voice filled with colors as the smallest of nuances generated fine degrees of meaning. She was the candle around which all other characters, male and female, circled like moths.”

-Classical New Jersey Society

**Carmen: San Antonio Opera**

“Babcock, a lush mezzo-soprano, commanded the stage from her first appearance, and her voice on the Habanera, Carmen’s iconic aria, was pleasantly round and inviting. Her Carmen - swiveling hips and jutting collarbones screamed sex.”

- San Antonio Express News

“Babcock’s voice is sultry and pillowy. With little effort, she seduces a sensible but misguided corporal, Don José.”

-San Antonio Current

**Carmen: Toledo Opera**

“In the title role, Audrey Babcock, mezzo, embodies the wildness and fatalism of her gypsy character and convincingly propels the story through all four acts up to and including the finale.”

- Toledo Blade

**Little Women: Utah Opera**

“Mezzo-soprano Audrey Babcock commands the Capitol Theatre stage in the central role of Jo. Her performance Saturday was a vocal and dramatic knockout.”

-Salt Lake Tribune

“Audrey Babcock, who plays Jo, does a phenomenal job of capturing her dominant personality of expressiveness, stubbornness and childishness — traits that were frowned upon. Her voice, and the voices of all the cast members, are showcased beautifully.”

-Deseret News

“Babcock won empathy as the intractable member of the March family’s four sisters... She deftly negotiated the score’s angular melodies with incisive pitch, supple coloratura and a well projected, amber-hued tone.”

-Opera News

### **Little Women: Syracuse Opera**

“... mezzo-soprano Audrey Babcock, who delivered a rambunctious performance as tomboyish, headstrong, hardheaded Jo. Babcock’s Jo brimmed with an indomitable Yankee spirit that intensified the character’s losses when they inevitably came. “Couldn’t I Unbake the Breads” was the perfect aria for her. Most effective was Babcock’s transition to a subdued Jo, vulnerable to Aunt March’s (Erin Elizabeth Smith) pressure to live a solitary life.”

-The Examiner

“Jo, masterfully portrayed by mezzo-soprano Audrey Babcock...Babcock’s emotionally volatile acting performance is electric. Her Jo - unruly, impetuous and selfish - is at all times believable, and the audience finds itself empathizing with her sufferings, laughing at her jests, and encouraging her in her successes.”

-The Post Standard

### **Rigoletto: Nashville Opera**

“Mezzo soprano Audrey Babcock, as the manipulative and cunning Maddalena, very nearly steals the show in her third act appearance, giving audiences a mere glimpse of what we can expect from her Carmen, the centerpiece of Nashville Opera’s 30th Anniversary Season: She gives a stunningly full-throated performance of the sexy and sensuous Maddalena and the senses reel in anticipation of her Carmen.”

-Broadway World/Opera World

### **Rigoletto: Florida Grand Opera**

“Audrey Babcock’s dusky Mezzo-Soprano and sexy theatricality lit up the stage as Maddalena.”

-Miami Herald

### **The Man of La Mancha: Lyric Opera of San Diego**

“The vocal strength is elsewhere – in the dynamic shadings of mezzo-soprano Audrey Babcock’s character-defining “Aldonza,” her insistent “It’s All the Same” and her lyrical “Dulcinea”...she’s a beautiful and sexy young singing actress admirably willing to take physical and dramatic risks.”

-The San Diego Union-Tribune

### **The Man of La Mancha: Utah Festival Opera**

“[Babcock’s] Aldonza/Dulcinea is gritty and real in her anger, and then in her tenderness toward Quixote. Vocally she is right on the money, and physically she is up to this very demanding role”

-The Herald Journal

### **The Consul: New Jersey Opera**

“Imperious but not heartless as The Secretary, Audrey Babcock stood out with a radiant mezzo-soprano and a fittingly tart sense of humor”

- The Star Ledger 2011

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Suggested Operatic Repertoire

|             |                           |                      |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Adamo       | Little Women              | Jo/Meg               |
| Barber      | Vanessa                   | Erika                |
| Berlioz     | Les Troyens               | Didon                |
| Bizet       | Carmen                    | Carmen               |
| Britten     | The Rape of Lucretia      | Lucretia             |
| Britten     | Midsummer Nights Dream    | Hermia               |
| Britten     | Turn of the Screw         | Miss Jessel          |
| Floyd       | Susannah                  | Mrs. McClean         |
| Giordano    | Andrea Chenier            | Madelon              |
| Handel      | Giuglio Cesare            | Cornelia             |
| Handel      | Serse                     | Amastre              |
| Handel      | Alcina                    | Ruggiero             |
| Heggie      | Dead Man Walking          | Sister Helen         |
| Mascagni    | Cavalleria Rusticana      | Santuzza             |
| Massenet    | Werther                   | Charlotte            |
| Monteverdi  | L'incoronazione di Poppea | Octavia              |
| Mozart      | Magic Flute               | Third Lady           |
| Mozart      | Cosi fan Tutte            | Dorabella            |
| Mussorgski  | Boris Godunov             | Marina               |
| Offenbach   | Les Contes d'Hoffman      | Nicklausse/Giulietta |
| Ponchielli  | La Gioconda               | Laura                |
| Puccini     | Madama Butterfly          | Suzuki               |
| Purcell     | Dido and Aeneas           | Dido                 |
| Rossini     | L'Italiana in Algeri      | Isabella             |
| Rossini     | Cenerentola               | Angelina             |
| Stravinsky  | The Rakes Progress        | Baba the Turk        |
| Tchaikovsky | Eugene Onegin             | Olga                 |
| Tchaikovsky | Queen of Spades           | Pauline              |
| Thomas      | Mignon                    | Mignon               |
| Verdi       | Rigoletto                 | Maddalena            |