

Critical Acclaim for Aida

Aida is the most performed legitimate display of Opera that Ms. Lister has done. From the very beginning of her journey, Aida has been a staple in her repertoire.

Her very first showing of this amazing role, which *Leontyne Price* made so famous with the public, was received with rousing energy and immediately after the performance the telephone began to ring. **“Lister sings Aida passionately and impressively.”** *Carl Cunningham*, Houston Post (Houston, Texas). Her dark rich tone gives the role the fullness it needs and the high notes are approached with such ease and lyrical beauty that **“the final notes in several passages were as beautiful and ethereal as any soprano could hope to offer.”** *Marilyn Posner*, North Hills (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania).

The aria “Ritorna vincitor” a show stopping entity within the framework of Aida, clearly defines, rather quickly, if the Aida can sing the part. **“Marquita Lister claims the stage with an emotion and an expression with a voice that is big and exciting...but always free, never overblown.”** *Dorothy Stowe*, Desert News (Salt Lake City). **“Marquita Lister not only delivers a most admirable vocal performance, but a nuanced and very human dramatic one as well.”** *Don Marshall*, The Daily Herald (Salt Lake City).

“It’s Hard to imagine a more beautiful Aida than soprano Marquita Lister. Young and lean, her Ethiopian princess is less regal, more flesh and blood—intensifying her lament for her war-torn country, “O Patria mia.” *Dean Smith* for the Charlotte Observer (Charlotte, North Carolina).

“Aida is Lister’s calling role and it’s now easy to see why. Her voice has got character and a pleasing touch of gold. It’s also rock solid and large enough to penetrate the biggest ensembles.” *The Herald* (Montreal, Canada).

“The principal cast performed on a high level, with Marquita Lister’s Aida superbly sung and warmly acted.” *Opera Canada* (Edmonton, Canada).

“The principal singers were outstanding, especially soprano Marquita Lister as Aida, who sang flawlessly and with warmth, receiving a standing ovation at the nearly sold out Jubilee (performance hall).” *The Edmonton Sun* (Edmonton, Canada).

“Lister, “A force of Nature.” *Michael Cavanagh* (Edmonton Opera’s Artistic Director).

Lister sang with **“lustrous and supple tone and added power when necessary but was capable of floating beautiful, soft high notes into the audience.”** *The Daily Press* (Portsmouth, Virginia).

“None of this would have amounted to much without Marquita Lister in the role of Aida. The soprano was superb, acting and singing the role with assurance and strength. Particularly in the third act, Lister scaled the heights of “Aida’s” glory, beginning with her lovely rendition of the aria “O Patria mia.” She gracefully sang Aida’s sad remembrance of her homeland.” *The Virginia Pilot* (Portsmouth, Virginia).