



Leila Chalfoun, soprano

On May 10th 2017, Benoit Charette - député of Deux-Montagnes, awarded the medal of the National Assembly to Leila Marie Chalfoun for her contribution and involvement in the cultural milieu of St-Eustache and on March 7, 2017, he offered a certificate from the National Assembly of Québec at the FestivalOpéra in St-Eustache, to the director-founder Leila in recognition of her invaluable contribution to the quality of Life of citizens.

Leila Chalfoun soprano and director - founder of FestivalOpéra de Saint-Eustache, has received the Prix Cèdre et Érable from the Chambre de Commerce et d'industrie Canada-Liban on November 28th, 2015. She has received in 2012, the prestigious *Order of St Eustache* The Order of St Eustache is awarded to deserving citizens of the city of St Eustache that have distinguished themselves over the years within their chosen fields of endeavour, and have made a provincial, national, or international impact. Last year, Leila received the *prix Cybèle 2011*, which recognizes the bold vision, and the quality, of her festival programming, and celebrates the many opportunities that she has given to operatic theatre artists. On 21 March 2013, Ms. Chalfoun won the Arts and Culture "Arab woman from Quebec" for lifetime achievement in the field of opera as a soprano and artistic director.

Recently in September 2018, she sang the National anthem at the Opening of The Lebanese Diaspora Energy at Palais des Congrès in Montreal. Her recent engagements in 2015-16-17 include a performance in homage to the director of the Rimouski Opera Claude-Robin Pelletier during the Concert-Gala, performances at various events in Montréal and Québec City and her presence at the FestivalOpéra de St -Eustache in Opéra à la libanaise with mezzo Julie Nesrallah and baritone Fady Jeanbart, she sang the double role of the stepmother of Pauline Viardot's Cendrillon and Nelly Melba and concerts at FestivalOpéra de Saint-Eustache. Leila sang alongside famous baritone Gino Quilico and diva Nathalie Choquette at the FestivalOpéra de Saint-Eustache. She has also given recitals in the middle east, Austria, Switzerland, and a Faure Requiem in Quebec, as well as having performed extended scenes from Manon, Tales of Hoffmann, La Perichole, La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein, and Faust at the FestivalOpéra de Saint-Eustache. Other engagements in 2011 for Leila Chalfoun took her to Austria in recital (Kartaus Gaming/Scheibbs-May 29th) and locally for recitals of "Surviv' Cosmopolite" (sept- nov 10) and a return at the FestivalOpéra de Saint-Eustache in July 11. She began year 2009 in recital with pianist Caroline Haffner at the "New Year's music festival of Gstaad" (Switzerland) and gave concerts in Montreal (Oscar Peterson Hall- June 09...) and had a great success during the first edition of the FestivalOpéra de Saint-Eustache (July 10) in the "Soirée Offenbach".

She was trained at the Conservatory of Montreal and at the Atelier Lyrique de L'Opéra de Montréal (1990- 93). Following her debut at L'Opéra de Montréal in the role of Pauline in La vie Parisienne, Leila Chalfoun's career has continued to develop internationally on the opera and operetta stage as well as in oratorio and recital. After a return to Opéra de Montréal in the role of Clorinda in La Cenerentola, she performed in The Consul by Menotti at Opéra de Monte Carlo (directed by the composer). She also participated in the Soirée Offenbach marking Prince Rainier's anniversary singing duets with Frederica Von Stade and Gabriel Bacquier.

Credits include a tour performing the roles of Gretel in Hansel und Gretel and Rosalinda in Die Fledermaus with Orchestre Métropolitain (Joseph Rescigno, conductor). She also performed numerous times with l'Opéra Français de New York and maestro Abel in Orphée aux enfers, La belle Héléne in Barbe Bleue. With the Jeunesses Musicales du Canada Ms. Chalfoun sang the roles of Susanna in Il Segreto di Susanna and Lucy in The Telephone by Menotti. At the Italian festival in Catania she performed in concert versions of Manon, Il barbiere di Siviglia and La Bohème.

Ms. Chalfoun also has an extended repertoire in early music. Her most performed roles include Cleopatra in Julius Ceasar and the title role in Alcina by Handel. She has toured extensively in various works with l'Orchestre Baroque de Montréal in Turkey and Mexico.

Following her engagements with Opéra de Monte Carlo, Ms. Chalfoun has returned several times to perform in Monaco. Highlights include soloist in La petite Messe Solennelle by Rossini for the Jubilee festivities of Prince Rainier, and soloist in La messe de Sainte Cécile by Gounod and Les sept paroles du Christ (Franck) accompanied by the choir and orchestra: "I Polifonici di Genova. Ms. Chalfoun is frequently in demand as a soloist in Mozart's Requiem and The Messiah by Handel, works in which she has performed at La Madeleine in Paris and at the Festival du Château de Hautefort (Dordogne). She was invited to sing a Canadian recital (broadcasted by France Culture) at François Mitterrand hall in Paris. She has appeared several times in recital in Lebanon notably at the Festival Al Bustan with pianist Alexandre Tharaud.