

# Susan Payne O'Brien

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## Theater, Opera and Solo Work

Chamber Music of Beach and Barber	Amy Beach, S.Barber	Orvieto Musica	2022
Requiem Op. 9, Soloist	Maurice Duruflé	Chicago Chorale	2019
Siete Canciones *	Manuel de Falla	Links Hall	2019
Try Me Good King	Libby Larson	Musical Offering	2019
La La Lady Show*	Heidi Jootsen	Piven Theater	2019
Forte Chicago*	Heidi Jootsen	Piven Theater	2015
Ivanov, Babakina	Anton Chekhov	Piven Theater	2014
Forte Christmas*	Heidi Jootsen	Music Theater Lab	2014
Suor Angelica, Angelica**	Giacomo Puccini	Naked Voice Institute	2013
Sempre Libera	Susan Payne	2nd Story	2011
Le Cat Show	Evan Kuchar	Chopin Theater	2010
Selected Works of Samuel Barber	Samuel Barber	Union League Chicago	2005
La Traviata, Violetta**	Giuseppe Verdi	City Opera Quad Cities	2004
The Messiah, Alto Soloist	G.F. Handel	Chicago Chorale	2003
The Messiah, Alto Soloist	G.F. Handel	Music At Trinity	2003
Farwell Award Concert	Strauss, Britten	Chicago Cultural Center	2003
Così fan tutte, Fiordiligi**	W.A. Mozart	IIVA	2003
La Traviata, Violetta**	Giuseppe Verdi	IIVA	2003
La Boheme, Musetta**	Giacomo Puccini	IIVA	2003
Stabat Mater, Alto Soloist	Giovanni Pergolesi	Music At Trinity	2003
An Afternoon of Fauré	Gabriel Fauré	MCW Chicago	2002
The Bartered Bride, Marie*	Bedřich Smetana	DePaul Opera Theater	2002
The Gypsy Baron, Arsena*	Johann Strauss	Chicago Salon Opera	2001
Ravel, Chansons medecasses	Maurice Ravel	DePaul Chamber Music	2001

\*denotes opera

\*\*denotes opera selections

## Opera Direction

Cendrillon	Pauline Viardot	CCPA Chicago	2020
King Harald's Saga	Judith Weir	CCPA Chicago	2020
Thy Lucifer	Gilda Lyons	CCPA Chicago	2020
King Arthur	Henry Purcell	CCPA Chicago	2020
Distant Flight of Birds	Lara Golan	International Puppetry Festival	2019
Love Wounds	Christopher Cerrone	Fringe Opera	2019
Olympia	Jacques Offenbach	CCPA Chicago	2019
Frideswide	Dorian Cunningham	CCPA Chicago	2018
Cendrillon	Massenet	North Park Opera	2018
Riders to The Sea	Ralph Vaughn	CCPA Chicago	2018
Three Sisters	Williams Ned Rorem	CCPA Chicago	2018
Big Entrance	Payne & Jootsen	Piven Theatre	2018
Un Ballo in Maschera*	Giuseppe Verdi	Santa Fe Opera	2017
La Taberna del Puerto*	Pablo Sorozabal	Santa Fe Opera	2017
Love for Three Oranges*	Sergei Prokofiez	Santa Fe Opera	2017
The Rake's Progress*	Igor Stravinsky	Santa Fe Opera	2017
Loreley	Felix Mendelssohn	CCPA Chicago	2017
Broken Pieces	Daron Hagen	CCPA Chicago	2017
Carmen	Georges Bizet	El Paso Opera	2016
Impresario	W.A Mozart	CCPA Chicago	2016
La Caterina	Franz Joseph Haydn	CCPA Chicago	2016
The Magic Flute	W.A Mozart	North Park Opera	2016
The Sausage Show	Payne & Bendix	Music Theater Works	2016
Bluebeard'	Milton Granger	CCPA Chicago	2016
Forte Chicago	Payne & Jootsen	Piven Theatre	2015
Riders to the Sea	Ralph Vaughan	CCPA Chicago	2014
Beautiful Bridegroom	Williams Dan Shore	CCPA Chicago	2014
Roman Fever	Robert Ward	CCPA Chicago	2014
King Harald's Saga	Judith Weir	CCPA Chicago	2103
Doctor Miracle	Georges Bizet	CCPA Chicago	2013
Captain Lovelock	John Duke	CCPA Chicago	2013
The Bartered Bride*	Bedrich Smetana	Santa Fe Opera	2013
Giulio Cesare*	George Fredric Handel	Santa Fe Opera	2013
Carmen*	George Bizet	Santa Fe Opera	2013
Boulevard Solitude*	Hans Werner Henze	Santa Fe Opera	2013
Suor Angelica	Giacomo Puccini	CCPA Chicago	2012
The Princess and The Pea	Ernst Toch	CCPA Chicago	2011
Cendrillon	Pauline Viardot	CCPA Chicago	2011
Again	Jake Heggie	CCPA Chicago	2011

\*denotes selections

## Related Work Experience

Dramatic Coach	Chicago Opera Theater Young Artist Program	2019-Present
Head of Opera	Chicago College of Performing Arts	2019-2021
Dramatic Coach	RISE Crested Butte Music Festival	2020
Adjunct Faculty	Chicago College of Performing Arts	2009-2019
Adjunct Faculty	DePaul University Chicago	2013-2018
Adjunct Faculty	North Park University	2016/2018
Dramatic Coach	Up North Vocal Institute	2015-2017
Senior Faculty	Piven Theatre	1999-2019



## Artist Biography

Susan Payne O'Brien is a singer, actor and director interested in the many ways and mediums with which we tell stories on stage. She fell in love with the possibilities of story and the magic of classical theatrical forms at the Piven Theatre Workshop where she performed, directed, adapted, and taught theater for over twenty years. After completing her MFA in voice performance at the DePaul University School of Music, Susan built upon her extensive acting and operatic training to build new tools specific to the needs of the operatic actor. She has brought her unique and accessible work to developing singers at The Santa Fe Opera, The Chicago Opera Theater, The Chicago College of The Performing Arts, DePaul University, North Park University and The Crested Butte Music Festival.

Susan is passionate about developing new works and new audiences for opera. She is the founder and artistic director of Forte Chicago, an all-female ensemble of classical vocalists and instrumentalists. Forte Chicago's opera sketch comedy shows have brought opera to new audiences while fostering female contributions to the classical arts. Susan's libretto for Distant Flight of Birds, a devised operatic piece performed by the Forte ensemble, was featured in the 2019 International Puppetry Festival.

Susan's directing, adapting and performing has been seen on the stages of 2nd Story, The Piven Theater, Chicago Fringe Opera, The Chopin Theater, Links Hall, The International Puppetry Festival, El Paso Opera and The Santa Fe Opera. Susan believes that the future of opera lies in the passion and innovation with which we train our emergent talent to be the stewards of the unique magic that is opera.