**Bárbara Padilla**

**Classical-Crossover Soprano**

Long version:

Vibrant classical-crossover soprano Bárbara Padilla dazzles audiences with her powerful, transcendent voice, turning timeless songs into enchanting adventures that ignite the imagination, exhibit her extraordinary operatic technique and make hearts dance. Celebrated globally as “America’s Angel,” Bárbara's spectacular performance on Season 4 of "America’s Got Talent" prompted one judge to declare: “It was the greatest single vocal performance we’ve ever had on ‘America’s Got Talent’.” Bárbara’s luminous renditions of songs as well as her charisma and determined pursuit of her dreams made her a fan favorite, and she finished first runner-up. Once the show wrapped, Bárbara was asked to participate in the America’s Got Talent Live Concert Series in Las Vegas, which ran for ten weeks in Las Vegas and for three weeks at Foxwoods Casino.

Bárbara’s musical journey began when she was a young girl raised in a tight-knit family in the rich artistic community of Guadalajara, Mexico. Captivated by her mother’s collection of classical music albums, Bárbara found delight in stunning recordings of pieces by Beethoven, Mozart, Verdi and other composers. She was particularly moved by the interpretations of legendary vocalists such as Plácido Domingo and Edita Gruberova. She marveled at how these composers and artists were able to find beauty in every note, heightening her own emotions while enhancing the lush physical landscapes of the world around her. Her natural instinct to sing along revealed her extraordinary need to sing, and she began to take piano lessons to explore her artistic talents while pursuing her love of dance and visual art.

Bárbara resolved to become a singer in high school while studying with Alicia González Pacheco, one of the premier voice teachers in her home city. She began singing with choirs throughout the city as she honed her vocal technique and enrolled at the School of Music of the Universidad de Guadalajara, where she excelled both as a musician and an academic.

During this time, Bárbara was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma, fighting the disease while keeping up with her studies. To ensure she received the best treatment, Bárbara traveled to the U.S. to visit the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for a second opinion. While there, she auditioned at the University of Houston’s Moores School of Music and was offered a full scholarship. After several rounds of aggressive chemotherapy and radiation that should have damaged her vocal cords, doctors predicted she would never sing again. But after she returned to Guadalajara for a life-saving bone marrow transplant, astoundingly, the quality of her voice was unaffected, and her performances began to resonate with the healing energy of music.

After completing her Master’s degree in 2004, Bárbara earned several roles with various opera companies. However, she took a break from the spotlight after she and her husband adopted their daughter, Elizabeth. At the end of 2008, she was encouraged by her mother and husband to spread her wings again and nourish her love of music and live performance.

Fluent in Spanish, English, Italian and French, Bárbara has been particularly inspired by dynamic musical pioneers including Maria Callas and Renée Fleming. Her approach to singing is authentic and informed by years of diligent preparation; she revels in learning as much as possible about each piece of music she sings, including its origin and why the composer created it. This approach to her craft coupled with her fearless, nuanced interpretations of pieces across genres has attracted the attention of renowned artists, musicians and entertainers worldwide and endeared her to fans. She has performed as a soloist at symphonic events and has given concerts and recitals throughout the United States, Italy and Mexico.

Her repertoire encompasses roles in beloved operas such as La Bohème, Turandot, Tosca, Madame Butterfly, La Traviata; oratorios such as Verdi’s and Mozart’s Requiem Masses; and other masterworks including Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, Haydn’s Nelson Mass and Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana. Her versatility has also allowed her to excel at “popera,” including favorite songs within that genre such as “Time To Say Goodbye,” “Gira Con Me Questa Notte,” Alfonsina y El Mar” and others.

Bárbara's début CD, *Bárbara Padilla,* is a collection of colorful, carefully arranged pieces that reflect her diverse musical passions and blend the intensity of opera and classical music with contemporary pop. The album showcases her magical ability to inhabit a lively cast of characters and illuminate the dimensions of her singular, sparkling personality.

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