



Alfreda Burke's vocal artistry has been described as “*voluptuous, creamy and luxuriant*” (*Chicago Tribune*). She has appeared in concert throughout North America and in Europe. Ms. Burke made her Carnegie and Orchestra Hall debuts in Strauss' *Elektra* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra led by Daniel Barenboim. Highlighted performances include the Chicago Symphony at Ravinia under Erich Kunzel, Cincinnati Pops Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Opera House/DSO/Rackham Choir, Prague Philharmonic, Umbria Music Festival (Italy), TodiMusicFest, Miss World 2012, 2014, 2016 (China, UK, US); Chief Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, Miss World *Beauty With A Purpose & Rise Against Hunger* events, Gala (S.Africa 2017); Holders Season Gala (Barbados), Lancaster Festival, Corrales Cultural Arts Council (New Mexico), Grant Park Music Festival, Millennium Park Gala, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Kennedy Center, Auditorium Theatre, Auditorium Theatre 125 *Living the History*, Orpheum Theatre Memphis, Chicago Opera Theater, Chorus Angelorum, Chicagoland Pops Orchestra, *Siamsa na nGael* and NATO Chicago Summit, among others. Ms. Burke filmed Prague PBS special, *Hallelujah Broadway* (Mind the Gap Films, Dublin, Ireland) and recorded it on EMI/Manhattan Records label (Czech National Symphony Orchestra Studios, Prague). She is honored to be a *HistoryMaker* and a permanent part of their collection at the Library of Congress.

Ms. Burke's oratorio, opera, concert and musical theater engagements include the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concerts broadcast on WFMT-FM; Mozart *Requiem*, *Mass in C Minor*, *Coronation Mass in C Major*; Handel's *Messiah*; Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Beethoven's *Mass in C*; Poulenc *Gloria*; Schubert's *Mass in G*; Mahler 2nd & 8th *Symphonies*; Strauss' *Elektra*; Puccini's *Turandot* (Liu); Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*; Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*; Menotti's *Amahl & the Night Visitors*; Rutter *Requiem*; Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*; Boulez's *Le Visage Nuptial* under baton of Pierre Boulez; Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess*; Bernstein's *West Side Story*; Lloyd Webber's *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Mary Magdalene); Christianson & Anderson's *Too Hot to Handel*; Kern's *Show Boat* (Kennedy Center/National Tour, Auditorium Theatre with her son, Dean), directed by Harold Prince. A cycle of Paul Laurence Dunbar *Songs* was written for Ms. Burke by Dr. Edward Hart, College of Charleston (2015); and spiritual settings arranged for her by Belford Hernandez (2017). She was featured in Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Symphony Center Inaugural Festival and Radiothon. She sang for Francis Cardinal George, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich and the Office for Immigrant Affairs' *Keep Hope Alive* Benefit.

Ms. Burke's work in recordings, music video, television, radio, film and commercials includes: soprano vocalist in Dawa movies (LA) soundtrack featuring Ramsey Lewis, Maestro James Mack and members of the CSO; Bobby Lewis release; Celine Dion and R. Kelly's *I'm Your Angel*; numerous classical/crossover, sacred/secular profiles and broadcasts; *The Visit*, *The Visitors*, *Unconditional Love*, *U.S. Marshals*. Ms. Burke has made guest soloist appearances on the WTTW/Odyssey broadcast of *30 Good Minutes*. She has performed the *National Anthem* for the Chicago Bulls and Chicago Fire.

Alfreda Burke received rave reviews for *Community Concerts* national tour and *Following in the Footsteps* concert with tenor Rodrick Dixon. Ms. Burke's discography includes solo debut CD, *From the Heart*, *Hallelujah Broadway* (EMI/Manhattan Records). She recorded, performed the Chicago Olympic

2016 Bid Anthem, “*I Will Stand*” (Millennium Park Gala) and served on the Arts & Culture Advisory Council. Recent and upcoming engagements include Detroit Opera House/Rackham Choir (16 yrs.) and Chicago’s Auditorium Theatre, *Too Hot to Handel* (13 yrs.); production is currently livestreaming to prisons across America (due to Elmhurst CRC and Auditorium Theatre); Memphis’ Orpheum Theatre; Office for Immigrant Affairs/City Lights Orchestra, Hope, Harmony & Healing, Variety Children’s Charity Telethon; Trey Clegg Singers (Atlanta), Michael Teolis Singers; Hannibal Lokumbe’s *Crucifixion Resurrection*; Tuba Bach Festival; Auditorium Theatre & DiBurke, Inc. co-produced duo show and CD release. Ms. Burke received Master and Bachelor of Music degrees from Roosevelt University; served as Alumna Ambassador for RU’s 60th Anniversary; serves on the RU CCPA Advisory Board, Community Engagement Committee Chair; and served on the Auditorium Theatre 125th Anniversary Season Committee. Visit www.sopranoalfredaburke.com, www.theHistoryMakers.org, YouTube and Facebook. Follow Ms. Burke on Twitter @AlfredaBurke17

The talent, support and encouragement of Alfreda Burke’s beloved parents ignited her passion for music. Her performances are dedicated to the life, love, legacy and cherished memory of Pastor John H. Burke Jr. and First Lady Mamie R. Burke.

Work in Education:

Wheaton College Conservatory, *Guest Lecturer in Voice* (1998-2009); Chicago State University, *Voice Faculty* (2007-2008); Carl Sandburg HS, *Individual Voice Teacher* (2004-2007); Chicago Symphony Orchestra Musicians Residency/South Shore Cultural Center, *Voice Instructor* (1996-1998); Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Experimental Laboratory Schools (K-8), Evanston-Skokie Dist. 65, *General Music & Choral Teacher* (1985-1996). Young Musicians Choral Orchestra (YMCO) *Artist Residency*, CA (Summer 2009-2015); *Too Hot to Handel* Education Outreach, Detroit Opera House (2002-Present) and Auditorium Theatre (2006-Present); Wright State University Music & Medicine Symposium (2009-2013) *Performer, Presenter, Clinician*; The HistoryMakers *Back to School* (2013, 2016); Tennessee State University *Camera Class* (2017).

Interesting Facts:

Ms. Burke is the Goddaughter of Roberta Martin, internationally acclaimed Gospel singer, pianist, composer, arranger, choral organizer and publisher.

Ms. Burke was taught and inspired by Anne Greaney to pursue her talents in visual art, as well as music.

Visionaries:

Parents, Alice Dutcher Thornton, Dr. Corinne Schumacher, Margaret Hillis, Jennifer Ringo Conlon, Dr./Sr. Marion Etzel, Maestro James Mack, Jeffrey Horvath, Dr. Edna Williams, Dr. Robert Eckstrom, Anne M. Greaney, Dr. Sydonia M. Brooks