

OPERA  
ORCHESTRA  
OF NEW YORK

Eve Queler, MUSIC DIRECTOR

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To whom it may concern:

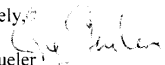
Re: Mzia Nioradze

I heard Mzia Nioradze for the first time in the contralto role of Maddalena in Verdi's **Rigoletto** at the Metropolitan Opera several years ago. I was immediately struck by the sound and color of her voice and I engaged her to sing the difficult role of Tigrana in Puccini's opera **Edgar**. Unfortunately I had to postpone the date of the performance of **Edgar** due to a change in the availability of the stage at Carnegie Hall and Ms Nioradze was not free for the new dates.

I have had the opportunity to work with Mzia Nioradze on two occasions when she sang two roles in concert performances of Rimsky Korsakov's opera **The Tsars' Bride** with Opera Orchestra of New York. Ms Nioradze is a rare kind of voice. She is a *mezzo contralto*. This means that she can sing the very low roles of the alto repertory which in today's market is very unusual. Also the quality of the voice is exceptional. So I was able to cast her in the dramatic contralto role of Luybasha for one performance and in the mezzo role of Danyusha for another performance.

Mzia Nioradze is also a consummate musician and I would heartily recommend her for any musical assignment to any conductor or theater. She would be a very useful addition to the US market of available singers as for much of this repertory we have to import artists from Europe. \

Sincerely,

  
Eve Queler  
Music Director  
November 25, 2008