

Judita Leitaite

Mezzo-soprano **Judita Leitaite** is among the most exciting, creative, and widely recognized soloists of Lithuania. Her concert career started when she was still a student. Success at international competitions – M.Glinka Vocal Competition in Baku (1987) and the International Vocal Competition in Finland in 1991 – prompted her further career.

Judita Leitaite studied with renowned masters such as E.Schwarzkopf and T.Kraus (Germany), C. Bergonzi (Italy), J. Goldberg (USA), prof. S. Maltsev (Russian).

Judita Leitaite performs regularly throughout her native Lithuania. She is on demand not only on the main concert stages, but also various radio and TV programs, schools, orphanages, churches, benefit concerts, as well, as jazz concerts and religious events.

She has made successful appearances at numerous international festivals in Poland, Denmark, Vilnius and London, as well as “Palaces of St. Petersburg” in Russia and “Music on the Water” held at the Palace of the King of Sweden. Her performance at the Baltic Music Fest in Sweden was a true sensation: “Audience was charmed not only by the beauty of the voice of fabulous vocalist Judita Leitaite, but also by her compelling musical rendering.” She became the Summer Star of Newport Music Festival (USA). “The North American debut of Lithuanian mezzo-soprano Judita Leitaite was greeted by thunderous ovations,” wrote Newport Music Festival press.

Judita Leitaite has toured Scandinavia and the former Soviet Union, Germany, France, Holland, Poland, Israel, Great Britain, USA, and the South African Republic. Among Leitaite’s concert partners are the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Vilnius String Quartet, Čiurlionis String Quartet, and Lithuanian and international pianists and organists. She has studied and collaborated with conductors such as Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Saulius Sondeckis, conducting Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Juozas Domarkas, and Leo Botstein (USA) conducting the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra, and Constantin Orbelian conducting the Moscow Chamber Orchestra.

Her record credits include a number of LPs, 12 CDs and well over 300 recordings for the Lithuanian Radio. Noteworthy recordings: music for film *Vilniaus getas (Vilnius Ghetto)*, Balakauskas’ *Requiem in Memoriam Stasys Lozoraitis*, *Russian romances*, 20th century hit programme *Renkuosi meilę (I Chose Love)*, CDs of Christian songs *Tau, mano angele (For You, My Angel)*. *Mano mėgstamos Skandinavijos dainos (My Favourite Scandinavian Songs)*, recorded in original language, received Finnish and Swedish critical recognition. Recently she has recorded *Menu kerinčius valso garsus (I Recall Enchanting Sound of Waltz)* and *Nuoširdžiai jūsu (Sincerely Yours)*.

For contributions to Lithuanian culture Leitaite was decorated with the Knight’s Cross of the Order of Vytautas the Great; in 2005, she was awarded the State Culture and Art Prize; in 2007, she received the Gold Disc.