

A Biography

Raquel Bitton



www.raquelbitton.com

Sparrow Productions Presents:

French world music singer and recording artist Raquel Bitton is recognized as the foremost singer of French World music/Jazz in America today. C'EST MAGNIFIQUE stands as her 10th Album in an illustrious career.

As an Actress , she has been internationally reviewed as the greatest interpreter of the music from the Edith Piaf repertoire which resulted in an award Film about the legendary Singer Edith Piaf, distributed by Lionsgate Films.

Raquel has performed to sold-out performances at notable concert halls across North America including three times at Carnegie Hall. A 20-piece orchestra backs Bitton's one-woman tribute to the "little sparrow.

"Bitton's unique, heartfelt renditions (sung in French) and her powerful delivery take her audience on an intensely moving and emotional journey."

The New York Times

LIVE PERFORMANCES

Raquel Bitton has performed and sold out as a soloist at the following venues:

Carnegie Hall (three times), New York

The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.

The ELGIN Theater, Toronto, Canada

Massey Hall, Toronto, Canada

Symphony Hall, Boston, Massachusetts

Orchestra Hall, Chicago, Illinois

Academy of Music, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Benaroya Hall, Seattle, Washington

Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco, California

Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco, California

San Francisco Opera House, San Francisco, California

Herbst Theatre, San Francisco, California

Lincoln Theater, Miami, Florida

Critical Acclaim

Radio Play comments:

"The most unique and classy music we've heard in a long time."

Eddie Hubbard, ABC Network Host, 167 stations

"Incomparable interpretations. Great, great, great! The listeners won't be able to get enough."

John Pond, KYTX/FM, Corpus Christi TX

"I'm in love!" *Bill Miller, "The Bill Miller Show"* (national syndication-116 stations).

Raquel Bitton's triumphant return to Carnegie Hall..." Jim Bessman, *Billboard*.

"MAGNIFICENT, EMOTIONAL, MESMERIZING...."

Musically stunning. Bitton's impassioned delivery has a trance-like effect on a listener. Piaf and Billie Holiday share a poignancy that few others have mastered; Bitton, here, is one."

Phil Elwood, San Francisco Examiner

"BITTON'S VOCALS...HONORED PIAF'S STYLE without strictly imitating it. No one could live up to a legend so inflated, but a bright interpreter like Ms. Bitton certainly can illuminate it." *Ann Powers, The New York Times*

“BITTON OFFERS TOUCHING TRIBUTE TO PIAF.

Bitton delivered a performance that would surely have been touching even to someone who'd never heard of Piaf. Classic pieces such as Sous le ciel de Paris; Milord; Non, je ne regrette rien; and, of course, La vie en rose triggered ecstatic applause from a packed crowd.”

Don Heckman, Los Angeles Times

HI-DRAMA New York 2019 review:

<https://www.facebook.com/449243405115579/posts/jan-ewing-reviews-piaf-her-story-her-songsstarring-raquel-bittonwith-michael-raf/2452381881468378/>

For more reviews: www.raquelbitton.com

Fact Sheet

Film

"Piaf- her story, her songs". A docu-concert film written by and starring Raquel Bitton. Won several prestigious film festival awards and was released by Lionsgate Films in 2003. PIAF..Her story..Her songs” has now been offered to PBS stations nationwide, its license having been renewed indefinitely. Distributed on DVD by Lionsgate Films .

Theater

Commissioned by Tony Award winning Theatreworks in California, Raquel Bitton is the author of "The Sparrow and the Birdman", a three people play with music celebrating the friendship between the French poet Jean Cocteau and the legendary French singer Edith Piaf. Raquel conceived this play. She will star in future performances.

Radio - NPR

Co-Produced, Hosted and Narrated “THE NIGHTS OF EDITH PIAF” for Peabody Winners THE KITCHEN SISTERS.

Listen on Podcast iTunes: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/179-the-nights-of-edith-piaf/id814067846?i=1000545640997>

Ballet

For Le Ballet des coeurs “Hearts”, Raquel was responsible for the concept and scenario of this full-length ballet that married the story line of the classic French film “Les Enfants du Paradis” with obscure songs from the Piaf repertoire that tell the story which was choreographed by Michael Smuin. A 65-piece orchestra accompanied Raquel as the ballet was performed at the Opera House in San Francisco for two seasons with the San Francisco Ballet and at the Kennedy Center in DC with the Washington Ballet.

Radio/TV

Co-Produced “The Nights of Edith Piaf” for National Public Radio - Consultant for and appeared in the PBS television documentary, “La Vie en Rose”

Discography (10 releases to date)

- 1- Rhythm of the Heart (Havana meets Paris) (Sony)
- 2-Boleros(French Latin Jazz recording) (Sony)
- 2-Paris Blues
- 3-Dream a little Dream
- 4-Raquel Bitton sings Edith Piaf(EMI)
- 5-In a Jazzy Mood
- 6-Changes (Country)
- 7-I Wish You Love
- 8- JARDIN D’HIVER (Single)
- 9- Rhythm of the Heart
- 10- C’est Magnifique

PLAYS WRITTEN:

The Sparrow and the Birdman (The Friendship of French Poet Jean Cocteau and Edith Piaf.

The Ladies of the Third Floor (Oy Vey! Jesus!)

Plays adapted into French:

Commissioned by Playwright Hershey Felder to Adapt/Translate his award-winning play "MAESTRO", The life of Leonard Bernstein.

ZELDA: Adaptation in English: Raquel Bitton

French original play by Sam VanSteen

What the critics said:

"THERE IS THE UNMISTAKABLE PASSION

Ms. Bitton brings to her invocation of the Piaf vocal spirit."

Barry Singer, The New York Times

"Passion is at the core of the "Piaf" Persona, in this case there is a surrogate, she is RAQUEL BITTON."

Anna Kisselgoff. New York Times

"Dear Raquel, your singing is superb, and I was so happy to find out to which extent you possess the "Climat" PIAF. Your voice, your heart, your talent would have pleased her so much, I assure you.

HENRI CONTET (Author of more than 40 of Piaf's songs. Le Vieux Piano, T'es beau tu sais...)

"PIAF IS BORN AGAIN – RAQUEL BITTON BRINGS A LEGEND

Raquel Bitton went straight to the audience's heart like Piaf before her....

[Carnegie Hall] was packed with people far as the eye could see. Raquel Bitton's show was well and truly sold out! This singer doesn't simply imitate, she performs in her own right and performs with the same burning passion of the one and only Madame Piaf! That Saturday night, another star was born."

Myriem Wong, France Amerique/Radio France International/Figaro.

Video

Raquel Bitton YouTube Channel :
<https://www.youtube.com/raquelbitton>

Piaf YouTube links: Raquel Bitton sings EDITH PIAF

LA VIE EN ROSE:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wibMvS5CfVY>

BRAVO POUR LE CLOWN:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KK_7DkXozz4

JE NE REGRETTE RIEN
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H19RndxM0QY>

J'M'EN FOUS PAS MAL:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bb4V04HwcjM>

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