

Ida Faiella, soprano



Ida Faiella is the founder and Executive Artistic Director of L'Ensemble which performs all facets of chamber music from unaccompanied sonatas to fully staged productions. While many artists are described as "versatile," Ida has enjoyed concurrent successes in the traditional concert world and in the field of popular music and jazz. Ms. Faiella's musical sympathies extend far and wide. Her childhood singing idols were Maria Callas and Billie Holiday. Singing at an early age, she had her own radio show when she was eleven. As a young singer, she performed with big bands including those of Larry Elgart until she confessed that she was not 21. As an opera major at the Hartt College of Music, she worked in well known jazz clubs with bassist Ron McClure (much to the dismay of her voice teacher). Upon moving to New York City her early musical collaborations were with jazz musicians such as drummer Paul "Motion" Motian and singer Sheila

Jordan. She was recently invited to present a retrospective concert of American Popular Music in Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall.

While on the music faculty of Bennington College she tackled major works of 20th century classical music including Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* and the soprano solo of his second String Quartet.

She has performed from New York City's Lincoln Center to halls in rural areas, and from Moscow to Paris. Whatever genre of music she sings, Faiella applies the same exacting standards, and critics have applauded her efforts. The New York Times wrote that she "sings with considerable intelligence and an apt intimacy and warmth." The Albany Times Union stated "Faiella sang Schubert from the heart as well as the head. Her profound sense of the little dramas of each song made a powerful impact." In another Times Union review, Ron Emery wrote, "The score required Faiella to sing, speak, chant, shout, croon, and act! She was outrageously wonderful."

Besides being married to violinist Barry Finclair and the mother of Cristina, Ms. Faiella tends to the needs of her parrot Mongo Santamaria, cats Cosi and Emi and dogs Wolf (Wolfgang). Piano and Chili. She is pleased to report that no animals were harmed in the preparation of her high C.