

## Margaret Ann McConnel Singer Biography

Margaret Ann McConnel Singer was born in Crescent, Oklahoma, on February 14, 1939, to John and Margaret Acton McConnel. She received her first piano lesson at age five and played her first solo piano recital at age ten. She was Salutatorian of the Crescent High School Class of 1956.

Ms. Singer was an alumna of the Inspiration Point Fine Arts Colony / Opera in the Ozarks (IPFAC/OIO) summer music camp in Eureka Springs, attending for the first time in 1951 at age twelve and then four more seasons through 1957. She served in various roles: piano accompanist, coach, répétiteur, and oboeist. As a result of this experience, she accompanied more than sixty-five performances of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* throughout the southwest and in Chicago. She was the accompanist for IPFAC's live production of *Hansel and Gretel* on WKY-TV in Oklahoma City, thought by many to be the first (possibly the second) live television performance of any opera.

Ms. Singer continued her education at the Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha, OK, and studied there under Jacque Abram, Artist in Residence. She won the Bloch Memorial Award in 1960 and subsequently received a Fulbright grant for further study at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England. Returning to the United States, she settled in New York and worked with such organizations as the Julliard School of Music, New York City Opera, Rhode Island Festival of the Arts, and Berkshire Music Festival at Tanglewood. She also worked with the San Francisco Opera and the Merola Opera Program in San Francisco, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Washington DC Opera, and Philadelphia Orchestra. During this time she also played piano recitals and accompanied vocalists and instrumentalists at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and in many European cities.

Ms. Singer moved to Hannover, Germany, in 1986, working with the Opera Company of Lower Saxony, and then, in 1989, moved to Karlsruhe. In 2000 Ms. Singer became head of the Opera Department as guest professor at the Mozarteum, in Salzburg, Austria. She spent one day a week in Paris, working with Apprentice Coaches at the Paris Opera, and two days a month with the training program of the Opera of the Rhine in Strasbourg, France.

Ms. Singer died July 7, 2023, in New York City.