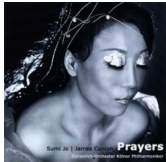


Sumi Jo – Prayers (2000)

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01. Ravel - *Kaddisch* 02. Mozart - *Laudate Dominum* 03. Caccini - *Ave Maria* 04. *Amazing Grace* 05. Strauss R - *Breit'uber mein Haupt* 06. Rossini - *L'ora fatal s'appressa.. Giusto ciel* 07. Faure - *Requiem - Pie Jesu* 08. Schubert - *Gott! Hore meine Stimme!* 09. Gounod - *Sanctus* 10. Donizetti - *Preghiera di Maria* 11. Preisner - *Lacrimosa* 12. Bernstein - *Take care of this house* 13. Strauss II - *Nun's Chorus-Laura's Song* 14. *Say a prayer for me tonight Gigi* 15. *Sometimes I feel like a motherless child* Sumi Jo – soprano Cologne Philharmonic James Conlon – conductor

A coloratura soprano who in the late 1990s became one of the most noticed new names on the international operatic circuit, Sumi Jo was a discovery of the flamboyant German conductor Herbert von Karajan. A striking beauty, she owed her initial celebrity in part to video: the conductor arranged for her a prominent role in his Karajan in Salzburg video production.

Sumi Jo was born in Seoul, South Korea, in 1962. After studying both voice and piano from a young age, she dropped out of Seoul National University in 1983 to travel to Italy for study at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome. Among her teachers were Carlo Bergonzi and Grannila Bonelli. She graduated in 1985, with a concentration in keyboard as well as voice and over the next few years took top voice competition prizes in several countries, attracting the attention of Karajan. Her operatic debut came as Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto* in 1986, and two years later she performed in *Un Ballo in Maschera* under Karajan's baton. In the 1990s and early 2000s she was ubiquitous, singing in major capitals on nearly every continent. She won a Grammy award in 1993, and among her many recordings, her several portrayals of Mozart's vocally treacherous Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* have been especially noteworthy. In 2000, she began to see the fruits of Richard Bonynges' mentorship, refining her bel canto technique and preparing for a Carnegie Hall recital in February 2001. ---All Music Guide, Rovi

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