

Angela Brown, soprano

Angela Brown personifies the ideal soprano: sheer vocal power; luxurious finesse; and shimmering, high pianissimos. She has graced the leading opera and symphonic stages on six continents including Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, National Opera of Paris, Vienna State Opera, Capetown (South Africa) Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Edmonton Opera, Calgary Philharmonic, Shanghai World Expo, Moscow Performing Arts Center, The Metropolitan Opera, Bilbao Opera, Teatro La Fenice, Hamburg Opera, Opera Philadelphia, Cincinnati Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, and more. She has been presented in solo recital throughout the United States, Canada, Spain, New Zealand, China, and Africa. She is a featured artist on the two-time Grammy Award® winning recording “Ask Your Mama” and is the original voice of the contemporary opera roles of Addie Parker (*Charlie Parker’s Yardbird*) and Cilla (*Margaret Garner*). Her repertoire includes the time-honored roles of Tosca, Aida, Amelia (*Un ballo in Maschera*), Elisabetta (*Don Carlo*), and Leonora (*Il Trovatore*).

Angela’s highly successful Metropolitan Opera debut in the title role of *Aida* captured instant attention from international print and broadcast media and catapulted Angela onto the world’s prestigious stages. Headlines from The New York Times read: “*At last an Aida,*” and CBS Weekend News proclaimed: “*the future of opera has arrived!*” followed by features on the front page of The New York Times, on CNN, in Oprah Magazine, Essence Magazine, Ebony Magazine, Classical Singer, Reader’s Digest, and Psychology Today.

Angela is the founder of Morning Brown, Inc., her nonprofit dedicated to the development of multicultural role models and audiences in the performing arts. The success of her signature show, *Opera...from a Sistah’s Point of View*©1997 provided the momentum and cornerstone for an array of outreach and educational programs that have been presented in 22 USA states, under the auspices of Morning Brown, reaching thousands of elementary, secondary, and university students. (www.morningbrown.org)

2025 holds a residency at Ole Miss (The University of Mississippi) for a concert and masterclass, performances for the Indianapolis Opera’s 50th Anniversary Gala, a concert with the Indianapolis Winds Symphony, co-hosting duties for the American Piano Awards, a return to Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra for their summer series and more. Angela will sing the world premiere of Phenomenal Queen: Coretta Scott King by James Lee III with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in March 2026. This new work is co-commissioned by Morning Brown, Inc., and the Indianapolis Symphony with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Performances in 2024 included two world premieres. Angela sang the soprano solo for award-winning composer Nkeiru Okoye’s new work *When the Caged Bird Sings*. The work was inspired by the life of Dr. Maya Angelou and performed for the University of Michigan’s University Musical Society’s series. Featuring four soloists, a narrator, full orchestra, and chorus, Angela sang the principal soprano role of “Cerise’s Mother.” Angela reprised the role of Addie Parker in *Charlie Parker’s Yardbird* with the Indianapolis Opera. Angela premiered Presidential Service Medal recipient Bill Banfield’s *Symphony 14* (Revelation) for soprano and symphony with the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. She sang a selection from Okoye’s opera *Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed that Line to Freedom* with Louisville Orchestra.

A celebrated role model for the next generation of multicultural singers, Cincinnati Opera and Opera Birmingham released a virtual performance of *Opera...from a Sistah’s Point of View* in 2021 featuring rising young artists baritone Reginald Smith, Jr., tenor Jamez McCorkle, mezzo soprano Brianna Hunter, and soprano Victoria Okafor alongside Angela. She received the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award from the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts in 2022 for her impactful career and personal commitment to diversity in role models, performers, educators, and audiences in the arts. The Willson Center for Humanities and the Arts of the University of Georgia named Angela the 2023 Delta Visiting Chair for Global Understanding. The Chair is presented with the support of The Delta Air Lines Foundation, and Angela is the first musician to be honored with this distinction. In 2023, the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music presented her with the Centennial Award for meaningful contributions to the advancement of music education, performance advocacy, and/or philanthropy.

Angela is the Artistic and Educational Ambassador of Indianapolis Opera. She is featured in the 2022 Marian Anderson documentary, *The Whole World in Her Hand*, on PBS’s American Masters, and the 2021 Marian Anderson documentary, *Voice of Freedom*, on PBS’s American Experience. She co-hosted a recent award-winning podcast with pianist Joshua Thompson: *Melanated Moments in Classical Music*, with over 50 episodes over seven seasons and a global audience in over 100 countries.

www.angelambrown.com (current Mar 2025 – 760 words)