

From New York Times, 17 Aug 1951:

Sophie Traubman, a former Metropolitan Opera star, who was a contemporary of Jean de Reszke singing soprano roles, died yesterday at her residence in the Chalfonte Hotel, 200 West Seventieth Street, after a brief illness. Her age was 85.

Active until her death, she was one of the few Americans who had sung at the Metropolitan Opera House during its early German period.

Mme. Traubman, whose husband died forty-five years ago, leaves a daughter, Mrs. Mortimer Harris; three granddaughters, Mrs. Herman Liberman Jr., Mrs. Joan H. Marx, and Mrs. Bernard J. Lasker, and three great-grandchildren.

Sophie Traubman, famous in this country and Europe in the Nineties as an operatic soprano, was born in New York. When she was 18 years old she gave a recital at the old Steinway Hall in Fourteenth Street and later won a scholarship in the National School of Opera, where she studied with Emmy Fursch-Madi. Later she studied in Europe with Mathilde Marchesi and Pauline Viardot-Garcia, and was coached at Baireuth, Germany, by Cosima Wagner.

Her debut was made with the National Opera Company at the Academy of Music. With this organization Mme. Traubman sang the roles of Venus in "Tannhaeuser," Sulamith in "The Queen of Sheba" and Marguerite in "Faust," both in New York and on tour.

Mme. Traubman sang for ten seasons with the Metropolitan Opera, beginning in 1887 in the regime of Edmund C. Stanton. She sang in several first American performances of Wagnerian music-dramas, among them "Goetterdaemmerung," appearing as Woglinde, on Jan. 25, 1888, and "Das Rheingold," also as Woglinde, on Jan. 24, 1889. Albert Niemann was the Siegfried and Lilli Lehman the Bruennhilde in the "Goetterdaemmerung" performance, and Emil Fischer was the Wotan and Anton Seidl the conductor of both operas.

Other notable roles at the Metropolitan included that of Margiana at the first Metropolitan performance of "Barber of Bagdad," by Cornelius, on Jan. 4, 1890, with Walter Damrosch as conductor.

Mme. Traubman appeared as Elvira in "Don Giovanni," on Dec. 7, 1896, with Edouard de Reszke, Bispham, Lassalle, Cremoni, Felia Litvinne and Marie Engle in the cast.