

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: SHEILA CARVER

Even when she was a child the citizens of Clovis, New Mexico, referred to Sheila House as “the little girl with the big voice.” In school choirs she was constantly having to tone down that big voice so the other youthful singers could be heard, and by the time she was ready for college it was clear that her voice was a true operatic soprano. She took an undergraduate degree in Opera at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, performing in such roles as the title roles in Douglas Moore’s “Baby Doe” and Puccini’s “Madame Butterfly.”

Shortly after graduation while visiting in Iowa City, Iowa, she called on some of the music faculty who had been guest artists in her undergraduate days, and on a whim agreed to an interview and audition. She walked away that same day with a contract and spent close to four years on the faculty there, completing her advanced degree at

the same time. Meanwhile she and two other singers were preparing for a concert tour up and down the east coast, eventually culminating in a six year period with New York’s City Center Opera Corps, where she starred in a variety of roles.



Sheila as Fiordiligi in Mozart’s “Così fan tutte” with Larry Schenk as Guglielmo

Exhausted from the pressures of big city life and live performances she moved to Lexington, Kentucky to join the faculty at University of Kentucky’s School of Music. It was there that she met and married

James Carver and before long found herself living in Houston, Texas.

It didn't take long for a musician of her caliber to find her niche in both HISD and Houston Baptist University's Music Departments. That was for daytime, then at night from 8 PM until around 2 AM she sang at the then famous Opera Bar, Les Quatres Saisons, in the Theatre District.. Her one son made his debut on stage at six months, on her hip as she sang, He turned out to have interests other than the performing arts, however, and now works for Fluor Corporation in Afghanistan.

Widowed in 1997, Sheila lived in her own house or with family members until she moved to Treemont two years ago and made it home.