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# TASHA KOONTZ

## Soprano



Native Hawaiian soprano Tasha Koontz has been recognized by *Parterre Box* for her “sumptuous, gleaming lyric instrument” and by *Opera Wire* for her “secure silvery high notes,” An artist garnering attention from coast to coast, she lends her unique combination of nuanced and vocally exciting performances to a gallery of leading ladies in the operatic repertoire. In San Diego Opera’s 2021 concert *One Amazing Night* “Soprano Tasha Koontz wowed with a knockout performance of “Dieu quel frisson” from Gounod’s opera, “Romeo et Juliette,” (San Diego Union Tribune) and performed the soprano solos in Bach Cantata 106 with the **La Jolla Symphony**.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms.Koontz’s upcoming engagements have been postponed. These included solo engagements to sing in Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, Carmina Burana, recital appearances, and opera performances. She will next appear with **San Diego Opera** in the 2021 and 2023 seasons.Ms Koontz. will also appear with the **La Jolla Symphony & Chorus** in June 2022 to sing in Mahler's Symphony No.2 "Resurrection".

In the 2019/20 season, engagements included the soprano solos in Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the **San Diego Symphony**, the role of the High Priestess in Verdi's *Aïda* with the **San Diego Opera**, the soprano soloist in Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the **San Diego Festival Chorus & Orchestra**, and Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the **California Chamber Orchestra**. Ms. Koontz was also heard on the WFMT radio broadcast of the 2019 performance of *Aïda* with **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** in which she sang High Priestess. In October 2020 she had the pleasure of covering Ana Maria Martinez in the role of Mimì in *La Bohème* in a groundbreaking drive in opera production by **San Diego Opera**.

In the 2018/19 season, Ms.Koontz returned to **San Diego Opera** singing the role of Frasquita in *Carmen* under the baton of Maestro Yves Abel. *Broadway World* recognized Ms.Koontz for her “accurate powerful voice,” and the *San Diego Union Tribune* followed suit, describing her as a “power soprano.” Later that same season, Ms.Koontz made her debut with the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** singing the High Priestess in Verdi's *Aïda* under the baton of Maestro Riccardo Muti.

Additional roles performed include Violetta in *La Traviata* and Mimì in *La bohème* with **Opera on the Avalon**, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with **Bay View Music Festival**, Edith in *Pirates of Penzance* and Annina in *La Traviata* with **San Diego Opera**, Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte* with **Central City Opera**, Alice Ford in *Falstaff* with **Indiana University Opera Theater** and with **/kor/ Productions** in Chicago, the Countess Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* with **Northwestern University**, as well as Woman 1 in Ricky Ian Gordon’s *The Grapes of Wrath* with **Sugar Creek Opera**.

Equally at home on the concert stage, Ms. Koontz has performed as the soprano soloist with the **La Jolla Symphony & Chorus** for their performances of Gustav Mahler’s *Symphony No. 4* and Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana*. Ms.Koontz debuted with the **San Diego Symphony** in their *Jacobs Masterworks: Music and world of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Concert*. Additional concert repertoire includes Brahms’ *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Strauss’ *Four Last Songs*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Poulenc’s *Gloria*, Bach’s *B minor Mass*, as well as Faure’s *Requiem*. She has also appeared with the **Chicago Arts Orchestra**, **Newfoundland Orchestra**, **Coeur d’Alene Symphony Orchestra**, **Spokane Symphony Orchestra** and the **Northwestern University Orchestra**.

Ms. Koontz has been the first place vocal winner in the **Musical Merit Foundation Awards** competition as well as the **La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Young Artist Competition**, the second place winner in the **Susan and Virginia Hawk Vocal Scholarship Competition**, the recipient of an encouragement award in the **Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Western Region**. She was also chosen to compete in the semi-finals of the **Belvedere Competition**, was named a Finalist in the **Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition**. Additional awards and recognition include the **Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions** Illinois and Indiana Districts and Central Region as well as the San Diego District and Western Region, the **Coeur d’Alene Symphony Competition**, the **Bel Canto Foundation Competition**, and the **Brava! Opera Theater Competition**.

Ms. Koontz is a Master of Music graduate of the **Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University**, where she studied with acclaimed soprano Carol Vaness, and received her Bachelor of Music from **Northwestern University**.