

TASHA KOONTZ

SOPRANO

GENERAL MANAGEMENT:

Miguel A. Rodríguez | Athlone Artists
+1 (617) 561-4600 | miguel@athloneartists.com



Native Hawaiian soprano Tasha Koontz has lent her “accurate, powerful voice” (*Broadway World*) to a gallery of leading operatic ladies and has been recognized by Parterre Box for her “sumptuous, gleaming lyric instrument” and by *Opera Wire* for her “secure silvery high notes.”

In 2022-23 she returns to San Diego Opera to perform the roles of Nella in *Gianni Schicchi* and Suor Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica*. A company favorite, Koontz debuted with San Diego Opera as Annina in *La Traviata* in 2017, and subsequently performed the roles of Edith in *Pirates of Penzance*, Frasquita in *Carmen* and High Priestess in *Aïda*, and covered the role Mimi in *La Bohème* sung by Ana Maria Martinez. She also sang the role of Catrina in a 2019 workshop performance of *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz and Latin GRAMMY® Award-winning composer Gabriela Lena Frank. In their 2021 concert entitled, “*One Amazing Night*,” Koontz “wowed with a knockout performance” (*San Diego Union Tribune*).

Ms. Koontz will be returning to San Diego Symphony in 2022 to sing selections from Edvard Grieg’s *Peer Gynt* under Conductor Laureate Jahja Ling. Ms. Koontz also had the honor of being invited to participate in a master class led by esteemed conductor Riccardo Muti of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra singing selections from *Un Ballo in Maschera*. Other season highlights include performances of Donna Anna in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* with the FF Collective in San Diego, CA and concerts with the Spreckels Organ Society in May.

In 2019, Koontz made her debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to great acclaim, bringing her “fulsome, penetrating soprano voice” and “unflappable poise” (*Chicago Sun Times*) to the role of High Priestess in Verdi’s *Aïda* under the baton of Maestro Riccardo Muti. Koontz will also make her return to the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus in 2022 in Mahler’s Second “Resurrection” Symphony. There, she has previously been seen as a soloist in Bach’s *Cantata No. 106*, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, and Mahler’s Fourth Symphony.

A frequent concert soloist, Koontz was slated to make her debut with Palomar Symphony Orchestra (Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9), North Coast Symphony Orchestra (“Songs and Dances,” Songs by Lewis Carroll), MiraCosta Symphony Orchestra (Corigliano’s *Fern Hill*) and the Oregon Music Festival (Orff’s *Carmina Burana*), all postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior, she sang as soprano soloist in Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* with the San Diego Symphony, Vivaldi’s *Gloria* with the San Diego Festival Chorus & Orchestra, and Barber’s *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the California Chamber Orchestra. She has also performed Brahms’ *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Strauss’ *Four*



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Last Songs, Handel's *Messiah*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Bach's *B minor Mass*, and Fauré's *Requiem* and has appeared with the Chicago Arts Orchestra, and orchestras of Newfoundland, Coeur d'Alene, Spokane and Northwestern University.

Additional roles and houses on Koontz's résumé 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, Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte* with Central City Opera, Alice Ford in *Falstaff* with Indiana University Opera Theater and with /kor/ Productions in Chicago, Countess Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Northwestern University, and Woman 1 in Ricky Ian Gordon's *The*

Grapes of Wrath with Sugar Creek Opera. She also performed the role of Violetta in *La Traviata* in a production with the FF Collective, an organization Koontz co-founded in 2021 to create performance opportunities for women and artists from underrepresented communities in Southern California.

Ms. Koontz took first place in the Musical Merit Foundation Awards competition and the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus Young Artist Competition, second place in the Susan and Virginia Hawk Vocal Scholarship Competition, and was 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 and was named a Finalist in the Fritz and Lavinia Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition. She has also won awards and recognition in 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 earned her master's degree in music from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, where she studied with acclaimed soprano Carol Vaness, and received her bachelor's degree in music from Northwestern University.

www.tashakoontz.com

IG: @TishTashKoontz

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The Berkshires, PO Box 2434, Lenox MA 01240
(617) 651-4600 www.AthloneArtists.com