

Vienna based Finnish mezzo-soprano Tuija Knihtilä graduated from the Sibelius-Academy and continued her studies at Die Hochschule der Künste Berlin as well as at the Zürich International Opera Studio. Initially ensemble member at the Finnish National Opera, she works as a freelancer since 2010.

The 2023/24 season includes Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* at the Organ Night and Aria festival in Espoo, the staged version of Verdi's *Requiem* and the role debut as *Mère Marie* in *Dialogues des Carmélites/Poulenc* at the FNO under the baton of Hannu Lintu, who also conducted Tuija's debut as *Marguerite* in *La Damnation de Faust/Berlioz* 2020 with the Finnish RSO in Helsinki. She will also perform her first *Waltraute* on-stage in *Die Götterdämmerung/Wagner* in Helsinki.

Recently Tuija had her debut as *Judith* in Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle* with Pori Sinfonietta. She sang in Beethoven's 9th with Sakari Oramo and the Wiener Symphoniker and will appear in Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the Tapiola Sinfonietta and Ryan Bancroft.

Other roles to be mentioned are *Santuzza/ Cavalleria Rusticana and Venus/Tannhäuser* at the Norwegian National Opera, *Amneris/Aida*, *Ortrud/ Lohengrin* and the title role of *Carmen* at the Savonlinna Opera Festival, *Santuzza/ Cavalleria Rusticana* in São Paulo and *Brangäne* at Teatro La Fenice under the baton of Myung Whun Chung, *Kundry/ Parsifal* at the FNO Helsinki, Mannheim and Linz, as well as her celebrated *Ortrud/Lohengrin* at the Danish Royal Opera in Copenhagen.

Tuija made her US debut at the Austin Opera (TX) as *Amneris*, the role in which she has appeared also in São Paulo, Bonn, and Malmö. In Malmö she also sang *Laura Adorno/La Gioconda*.

As a sought-after concert singer some of her notable performances have been Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* with Hannu Lintu at the Helsinki Festival, *Das Lied von der Erde* with Malmö Symphony Orchestra and of *Herodias/ Salome* as concert set up with Turku Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Leif Segerstam.