

Tuija Knihtilä - Mezzo-Soprano

Finnish mezzo-soprano Tuija Knihtilä studied at the Sibelius-Academy, where she graduated with a Master of Music before pursuing further studies in Berlin at the Hochschule der Künste and Zurich at the International Opera Studio.

Until 2010 she was engaged as a soloist in the ensemble of the Finnish National Opera, where she performed in productions like *Così fan tutte*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, and particularly distinguished herself in the role of Amneris/*Aida*. Since 2004 she is a regular guest at Savonlinna Opera Festival.

The past seasons saw Ms. Knihtilä's great success as Komponist/*Ariadne auf Naxos* and as Venus/*Tannhäuser* at the Oslo Opera, her debut as Brangäne/*Tristan und Isolde* in Weimar and her participation in the world premiere of Kimmo Hakola's opera *La Fenice* at the Savonlinna Opera Festival. She returned to Oslo as Santuzza/*Cavalleria Rusticana* and Brangäne/*Tristan und Isolde*.

Thanks to this role, she also made her Italian debut at the Teatro la Fenice in Venice, in a production of Myung Whun Chung. Further highlights of the recent past include performances as Brangäne/*Tristan und Isolde* in Chemnitz, Amneris/*Aida* and Santuzza/*Cavalleria Rusticana* in Sao Paulo and Venus/*Tannhäuser* in Copenhagen and at the Oper Frankfurt, in a production by Vera Nemirova, under the baton of Constantin Trinks. Her stunning interpretation of Ortrud/*Lohengrin* in Savonlinna in summer 2013 received great reviews from public and critics, and with this role she also returned to Copenhagen in 2016 with great success. Highlights of last season include new productions of Amneris/*Aida* at the opera Malmö and at the Theater Bonn, conducted by Will Humburg. A recent concert tour through Europe of Jean Sibelius's Symphony *Kullervo* was extremely successful and she made her USA debut in 2015, with Amneris/*Aida* at the Austin Oper in Texas.

Future engagements include a new production and role debut in *La Gioconda*/Laura at the Malmö Opera as well as world premiere of Aulis Sallinen's Opera Linna Vedessä at the Savonlinna Opera Festival.

Tuija Knihtilä is also a sought-after concert singer. She has worked with Leif Segerstam, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Mikko Franck, John Fiore and with many of the leading Scandinavian and European orchestras.