

CV Tuija Knihtilä

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 an ensemble member at the Finnish National Opera, she works since 2010 as a freelance artist.

The core of Knihtilä's repertoire consists of the major mezzo-soprano roles of the opera literature, which she has performed in esteemed opera houses such as La Fenice in Venice, the Oslo, Bergen, and Malmö operas, the Royal Danish and Swedish Operas, and the National Theatres of Weimar, Bonn, and Mannheim, as well as at the Frankfurt Opera in Germany. She made her U.S. debut in 2015 at Austin Opera in Texas, as Amneris in Verdi's *Aida*.

In spring 2020, Knihtilä returned to the Royal Swedish Opera, where she was invited on short notice to perform the role of Waltraute in Wagner's *Die Walküre* conducted by Constantin Trinks.

Due to the pandemic, all performances scheduled for 2021 were postponed. Her appearance in the title role of *Carmen* at the Savonlinna Opera Festival took place in summer 2022. In Spring 2022 she shined in one of her favourite roles, *Kundry*, in the production of Wagner's *Parsifal* at Landestheater Linz as well as 2023 at Theater Bielefeld.

In addition to her opera engagements, Tuija Knihtilä is a sought-after concert soloist. Among her latest engagements in Finland are her performance as *Marguerite* in Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Hannu Lintu in spring 2020, Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* at the Organ Night and Aria festival in autumn 2023, as well as the staged performances of Verdi's *Requiem* at the Finnish National Opera. She was a soloist in Mahler's 8. *Symphony* with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Hannu Lintu at the Helsinki Festival in 2018. On New Year 2022, Tuija Knihtilä sang the alto solo in Beethoven's 9. *Symphony* with the Vienna Symphony under the baton of Sakari Oramo. In Finland, she sang in Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* both in spring 2022 with the Lahti Symphony and in spring 2023 with Tapiola Sinfonietta. In autumn 2022 Sibelius' Kullervo Symphony, conducted by Sakari Oramo, was performed in Kokkola and Oulu. She was heard again in this masterpiece with Jyväskylä Symphony under Anna-Maria Helsing in 2024. The year 2025 will turn with Orchestre du Capitole de Toulouse and Beethoven's 9th *Symphony* under the baton of Tarmo Peltokoski.

Other highlights of the year 2024 were Knihtilä's debuts as *Mère Marie* in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites* and as *Waltraute* in Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* at the Finnish National Opera, conducted by the chief conductor Hannu Lintu.