
SUSAN HURLEY SOPRANO

BIOGRAPHY

Susan Hurley, soprano, has performed more than 20 principal operatic roles throughout the United States, including in two productions of Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, in which she sang the role of Zerbinetta. In 2015, she appeared with the orchestra of the *Landesbühnen Sachsen* (Saxony State Theater), singing the role of Helmwige in a gala performance of Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries," a reprise of a concert excerpt she previously performed with the Middle Saxony Philharmonic. With Houston's Opera in the Heights, she appeared as Gilda (*Rigoletto*), Oscar (*Un Ballo in Maschera*), and Poussette (*Manon*). Other engagements have included Queen of the Night (*Magic Flute*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Mabel (*Pirates of Penzance*), Lucia (*The Rape of Lucretia*), Suor Genovieffa (*Suor Angelica*), Nightingale (*L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*), and Sister Constance (*Dialogues of the Carmelites*), among numerous others. Susan has soloed with the Middle Saxony Philharmonic, the AIMS Festival Orchestra, MusicaNova Orchestra, Princeton Pro Musica, Voices Professional Ensemble, the ASU Symphony Orchestra, and the ASU Wind Ensemble.

In December 2014, she produced the Phoenix metro-area premiere of selections from the *AIDS Quilt Songbook* in a joint concert to benefit AIDS service organizations in central Arizona. In 2015, she expanded the Phoenix *AIDS Quilt Songbook* project to include the world premiere performance of the first addition to the Songbook by an Arizona composer, in a concert produced in collaboration with local World AIDS Day commemorative events.

A prizewinner at the 2002 international Meistersinger competition, she has appeared in concert and recital in Graz, Austria; Döbeln, Freiberg (Sachs), Leisnig, and Spickendorf, Germany. In 2010, in collaboration with pianist Eckart Sellheim and two other sopranos, she performed an all-Schumann song recital in honor of the composer's 200th birthday at the Middle Saxony Theater in Freiberg (Sachs), Germany.

A versatile performer, Susan regularly presents song recitals featuring literature from musical theatre to folk and art song from a wide range of periods and styles. She has acted in several musical theater productions, appeared as an ensemble dancer in Osvaldo Golijov's opera *Ainadamar*, and performed the spoken narration to Stephen Paulus' orchestral work, *Voices from the Gallery*.

As a concert soloist, Susan has performed several world and regional premieres of new compositions including the Arizona premiere of *Words of Love* by James Mobberley, the Phoenix premiere of selections from the *AIDS Quilt Songbook*, the world premiere of the chamber composition *Yesterday* by Vassilios Miltiades Makavos, and the world premiere of *Four Haiku* by Stephen Yip.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Susan began teaching private voice lessons to teens and adults shortly after receiving her Bachelor of Music degree, magna cum laude, from Rutgers University. She completed the Master of Music degree from Rice University and while in Houston, she continued her teaching career as an adjunct voice instructor at San Jacinto College North. She also taught private voice lessons at several Houston-area high schools, where her students regularly won Gold and Silver medals in the Texas Solo and Ensemble competitions. After moving to Arizona to begin the Doctor of Musical Arts program at Arizona State University, she joined the teaching faculty at Arizona State University's Herberger College Community School for the Arts, where she taught private lessons to students ages 12 to 60+, until the Community School closed its doors in 2011. Her former students have gone on to complete vocal performance and musical theatre degree programs at major music schools and to perform roles in musical theatre productions.

She holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Arizona State University. Her 2012 doctoral research project, *Singers and Sound: An Introduction to Tomatis-Based Listening Training for Singers*, introduces theories and technologies of listening, and analyses research evidence which suggests that systematic listening training, as pioneered by Dr. Alfred A. Tomatis (1920-2001), may produce measurable outcomes to improve a singer's performance.

Susan has also served as editor of the voice pedagogy book, *Hidden in Plain Sight: The Hermann Klein Phono-Vocal Method*, by Daniel James Shigo (Voice Talk Publications, 2013).

In 2003, Susan completed a 700-hour yoga teacher training certificate. She has taught Yoga for Singers classes at the American Institute for Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. She has also completed post-doctoral courses in Socially Engaged Art and in nonprofit management.