



# NEIL FUNKHOUSER

## ARTISTS MANAGEMENT

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### Leah Summers

#### **Mezzo-Soprano**

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Noted for the richness of her voice and for the radiance of her stage presence, American mezzo-soprano Leah Summers is ideally suited to bel canto, Strauss and Wagner roles, while simultaneously possessing the flexibility to deliver the florid music of Handel, Mozart and Rossini. Ms. Summers was a **Fulbright Scholar** in Vienna, Austria. She is a graduate of **Juilliard Opera Center** and the recipient of a **Sullivan Foundation Grant**.

Recent performances include: Dorabella in *Così Fan Tutte* with **Opera Colorado**, Sara in matinee performances of *Roberto Devereux* with **Dallas Opera**, and Prince Orlofsky in *Die*

*Fledermaus* with **Opera New Jersey**.

Additionally, Ms. Summers has made appearances at the **New York City Opera** in the roles of Cherubino in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Maddalena in Verdi's *Rigoletto* and Melina in Deborah Drattell's *Central Park* (the middle work of a world-premiere operatic trilogy), Suzuki in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Zulma in Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri* and Pitti-Sing in Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Mikado*. She has also bowed as Cherubino with **Pittsburgh Opera** and as Romeo in *Capuleti e i Montecchi* with **Berkshire Opera**. Ms. Summers has enjoyed multiple appearances with the **Vienna Staatsoper**, including Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, the Page in *Salome*, and Grimgerde in *Die Walküre*. With **Opera Orchestra of New York**, Ms. Summers has sung Orsini in *Lucrezia Borgia* and Teresa in *La Sonnambula*.

Equally at home on the concert stage, Ms. Summers has appeared as soloist in Mahler's 8th Symphony with the **Dallas Symphony Orchestra** under its artistic director Andrew Litton (in performances recorded LIVE by Delos), in Bach's *Mass in b minor* with the **New York Chamber Orchestra** and conductor Gerard Schwarz; in Handel's *Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne* with the **Richmond Symphony** and conductor George Manahan and *The Messiah* with the **Summit Choral Society** at the Summit Presbyterian Church in New Jersey; in Mozart's *Mass in c minor* with the **Ensemble Musica Sacra** at the Kollegienkirche in Salzburg, Austria; finally, in Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* with the **West Virginia Symphony Orchestra** under its artistic director Grant Cooper and in *5 Rückert Lieder* with the **Mödling Symphony Orchestra** in Vienna, Austria. As a recitalist she has performed songs of Samuel Barber with the **New York Festival of Song** and pianist Steven Blier, as well as several lieder recitals in the **Sacellum summer series** in Salzburg, Austria.



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#### **Suggested Operatic Repertoire**

Bellini	I Capuleti e i Montecchi	Romeo
Bellini	La Sonnambula	Teresa
Bernstein	Trouble in Tahiti	Dinah
Bizet	Carmen	Mercedes
Donizetti	Lucrezia Borgia	Orsini
Gounod	Faust	Siebel
Henze	Elegy for Young Lovers	Carolina
Humperdinck	Hänsel und Gretel	Hänsel
Mascagni	Cavalleria Rusticana	Lola
Monteverdi	Il ritorno d'Ulisse	Melanto
Mozart	Così fan tutte	Dorabella
Mozart	Die Zauberflöte	3rd Lady
Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Cherubino
Puccini	Madama Butterfly	Suzuki
Ravel	L'Enfant et les Sortilèges	Tasse, Libellule
Roem	Miss Julie	Miss Julie
Rossini	L'Italiana in Algeri	Zulma
Strauss	Ariadne auf Naxos	Composer
Strauss	Der Rosenkavalier	Octavian
Strauss	Salome	The Page
Verdi	Rigoletto	Maddalena
Wagner	Die Walküre	Grimgerde
Weill	Mahagonny Singspiel	Jessie

#### **Suggested Concert Repertoire**

J.S. Bach	Mass in b minor, BWV 232
Handel	Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne
Handel	Messiah
Mahler	Kindertotenlieder
Mahler	Rückert Lieder
Mahler	Symphony No. 8
Mozart	Mass in c minor KV 427
Mozart	Requiem, KV 626
Mozart	Vesperae solennes de confessore, KV 339
Verdi	Requiem



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#### **Critical Acclaim**

Most impressive in the second and third acts was mezzo-soprano Leah Summers, singing the “pants” role of Prince Orlofsky...

Town Topics (Nancy Plum)