

# JOHN SUCH

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## ANITA JOHNSON

### Soprano

Soprano Anita Johnson has been blessed with a voice of unfailingly lyrical grace, impeccable musicianship, and an onstage persona which has been described as “pure,” “charming,” “gorgeous,” “brilliant,” “electric,” and “near magical.” She has achieved an undeniably impressive level of artistry, and continues to enjoy critical and popular success both in the United States and abroad.

Operatic and concert engagements this season include a return to the Metropolitan Opera to appear in **War and Peace**, an appearance with Stevie Wonder at the Greek Theater in Los Angeles, CA on the **A Wonder Summer's Night Tour**, the New York Premiere of **A White House Cantata** with New York's Collegiate Chorale, a spring concert with the New Choral Society, and a recital and master class as a visiting guest artist at the University of Michigan School of Music.

Operatic and concert engagements last season included a return to the Metropolitan Opera to take part in new productions of **Die Ägyptische Helena** and **Il Trittico**, a return to Opera Pacific as Clara in **Porgy and Bess**, a debut with Toledo Opera as Norina in **Don Pasquale**, the New York Premiere of **The Juniper Tree** with New York's Collegiate Chorale, and Adina in **The Elixir of Love** with Chautauqua Opera.

Additional operatic and concert appearances for Ms. Johnson include Giannetta in **L'Elisir d'Amore**, Barbarina in **Le Nozze di Figaro**, Javotte in **Manon**, and the Second Unborn Child in **Die Frau Ohne Schatten** with the Metropolitan Opera; Marie in **The Daughter of the Regiment** and Oscar in **Un Ballo in Maschera** with Michigan Opera Theatre; Norina in **Don Pasquale**, Gilda in **Rigoletto**, Marie in **The Daughter of the Regiment**, and Susanna in **Le Nozze di Figaro** with Florentine Opera; Gilda in **Rigoletto** with Opera Knoxville; Musetta in **La Bohème** with Opera Pacific and the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra; Pamina in **The Magic Flute** with Opera Memphis; Clara in **Porgy and Bess** with New York City Opera, Atlanta Opera, Virginia Opera, New Orleans Opera, and Colorado Symphony; Zerbinetta in **Ariadne auf Naxos** with Opera North and New Orleans Opera; the Princess in **L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges** with New York City Opera; Lucia in **The Rape of Lucretia** with Opera Theatre of St. Louis; Adele in **Die Fledermaus** with Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Grand Rapids Opera, and Chautauqua Opera; the Mermaid in **Oberon** with the Collegiate Chorale at Carnegie Hall and the title role in Scott Joplin's opera **Treemonisha** at Alice Tully Hall; Konstanze in **Die Entführung aus dem Serail** with the Ann Arbor Symphony; Vivaldi's **Gloria**, Poulenc's **Gloria**, and the **Messiah** with the New Choral Society; Cunegonde in **Candide** with the Wheeling Symphony; and **Carmina Burana** with the Louisville Orchestra.

Ms. Johnson made her European debut in Spoleto, Italy performing the role of Konstanze in **Die Entführung aus dem Serail**; and for three years she was the resident lyric coloratura soprano in Germany's Nationaltheater Mannheim. While there she had several operatic and concert appearances as Musetta in **La Bohème**, Gretel in **Hänsel und Gretel**, a Blumen Mädchen in **Parsifal**, Xenia in **Boris Godunov**, Oscar in **Un Ballo in Maschera**, the Fifth Serving Maid in **Elektra**, Servillia in **La Clemenza di Tito**, Mrs. P in **The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat**, Sophie in **Der Rosenkavalier**, Sophie in **Werther**, Lucia in **Lucia di Lammermoor**, Blonde in **Die Entführung aus dem Serail**, Giulietta in **I Capuleti e I Montecchi**, and Olympia in **Les Contes d'Hoffmann**. She also created, directed, produced, and performed in a main stage concert event called **He's Got the Whole World in His Hand**.

Ms. Johnson has also been a frequent prize winner of various vocal competitions and awards, including the Arnold Petersen Prize in Mannheim, Germany; the 2001 University of Michigan School of Music Dean Paul Boylan Distinguished Alumni Award; National Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition; the Opera Index Judges' Award; the MacAllister Awards; the Palm Beach Opera Competition; and the Liederkrantz Competition.

A native of Ypsilanti, Michigan, Anita Johnson received a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Southern California and a Master of Music in Voice Performance as well as K-12 Music Certification from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. After graduating from the University of Michigan, Ms. Johnson became a member of Opera Music Theatre International under the direction of Jerome Hines, performing extensively throughout New Jersey. An elementary school teacher in the New Jersey Public School system and a preK-12 teacher at the Harlem School of the Arts, she created many performance opportunities for children, including children's operettas and a multi-media performance of international music. Under the auspices of the Virginia Opera Company, Ms. Johnson created and performed a unique one-woman show entitled "ABC'S: American Black Composers' Contributions to Our Musical Heritage ©."