

Bio-Sketch_Wright-Costa_2021

Soprano, Julie Wright Costa enjoys a rich and varied career that includes opera, musical theatre, oratorio, recital, and concert works. Her warm and flexible voice and dramatic acting skills account for her enthusiastic reception wherever she performs. As one of Ohio Light Opera's leading sopranos for thirty-one seasons (performing in over 100 different productions), Ms. Wright Costa is regarded as one of the country's outstanding interpreters of operetta and golden age musical theatre. In addition to her role as a performer, she serves as the Associate Artistic Director with the Ohio Light Opera and is in charge of casting.

Ms. Wright Costa is featured on compact disc recordings with the Albany, Operetta Archives and Newport Classics Label, including such works as Kálmán's *La Bayadere*, Sullivan's *Princess Ida* and *The Yeoman of the Guard*, and *Patience*, Berté's *Das Dreimäderlhaus*, and *Dream City and The Magic Night*, by Victor Herbert.

Opera News wrote: "In the title role [*Princess Ida*], Julie Wright is first rate-...She dominates the action and ensemble while retaining *Ida's* human quality, and her two arias unfold with a lovely long line and good sense of pacing." Other highlights include successful performances with the Chautauqua Opera, Utah Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre and Cleveland Opera. The New York Times has remarked that, "Julie Wright...sang gloriously." (Washington Square Concert Series). The Chautauquan Daily remarked, "Julie Wright did some absolutely wonderful singing in the duet 'Pardonnez-moi' from *Manon* and again in the duet 'Dinne, perche in quest' eremo' from Simon Boccanegra. She has a strong voice, excellent technique and a crystalline tone quality, which is delightful to the ear." The State Dispatch of Springfield Illinois wrote of her performances with the Illinois Symphony, "[she] is quite an actress as well as a singer...she has a marvelous voice." Ms. Wright Costa has performed with symphony orchestras throughout the country, including the Illinois Symphony, Utah Symphony, American West Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Greater Lansing Symphony and the Detroit Chamber Winds. Select performances include Handel's *Messiah* and *Dixit Dominus*, J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*, Haydn's *Creation*, Honegger's *King David*, Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*, Faure's *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Vaughn William's *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *Gloria* by Vivaldi. In May of 1998, Ms. Wright Costa was the soprano soloist with the Utah Symphony in Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* under the direction of Joseph Silverstein. This was Mr. Silverstein's last concert as the music director of the Utah Symphony.

Ms. Wright Costa marked her directorial debut with The Ohio Light Opera in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Utopia Limited* in 2000, followed by many other works in the light opera canon. She has been invited to stage direct a series of one-act operas with the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York; works included Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine*, Hindemith's *Hin und Zurück* and David Liptak's *The Moon Singer*. Ms. Wright Costa continues to be active as a stage director and has directed for Utah Opera, Nevada Opera, Opera Southwest, Opéra Louisiane, Western Plains Opera and the Moab Music Festival.

Ms. Wright Costa resides in Salt Lake City with her husband, composer, Dr. John Vasconcelos Costa.