



Esther Tanea Soprano

The *San Francisco Chronicle* praised Romanian-American soprano Esther Tanea for her “powerful, gleaming tone, effortless precision and expressive immediacy” in her rendition of Imogene’s mad scene from Bellini’s *Il pirata*, where she displayed the “sublime assurance of an established diva.” Ms. Tanea is a 2022 winner of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, 2024 Finalist in the Elizabeth Connell Prize at Wigmore Hall, 2024 Giulio Gari Grant Award Winner, a Presser Scholar, and recipient of the Richard F. Gold Career Grant. She is a recent graduate of San Francisco Opera’s

Adler Program. In the 2025/26 season, Ms. Tanea makes her role and house debut as Donna Anna in **Don Giovanni** with Opéra national de Montpellier, sings Brahms’ **Ein deutsches Requiem** with Opéra Orchestre national Montpellier, Rosalinde in **Die Fledermaus** with Washington Opera Society, Marie in Varney’s **Les mousquetaires au convent** L’opéra comique de Washington, Tatyana in **Eugene Onegin** with the Russian Chamber Arts Society, Strauss’ **Vier letzte Lieder** with the Washington Conservatory Orchestra, and performances of Handel’s **Messiah** in Athens, Georgia.. Last season, she sang her first performances of **Iolanta** with Russian Chamber Arts Society and Juliette in **Roméo et Juliette** with Bel Cantanti Opera, both in Washington, D. C. She also joined City Choir Washington for Haydn’s **Creation**, joined the Santa Rosa Symphony for Mahler’s **Symphony No. 2** and the world premiere of **Warum hast du gelitten?** by Jonathan Leshnoff, and returned to Richmond Symphony and Richmond Ballet for performances of **Carmina Burana**. She recently joined Atlanta Opera for Jake Heggie’s **Another Sunrise**, and returned to Richmond Symphony and Richmond Ballet for performances of **Carmina Burana**. She also recently joined Wolf Trap Opera as a Filene Artist for the title role of **Semele**.

While in her Adler tenure at San Francisco Opera, she performed the roles of Sister Antoine in **Dialogues des Carmélites** and Flower in **Dream of the Red Chamber**, while also being responsible for leading roles such as Tatyana in **Eugene Onegin**, Blanche de la Force in **Dialogues des Carmélites**, Fiordiligi in **Così fan tutte**, and Marzelline in **Fidelio**. She was also engaged by San Francisco Opera to sing Giovanna in **Ernani**, cover Chrisann in **The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs**, and cover Mimì in **La bohème**, all of which were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She has also performed excerpts from **Turandot** (Liù), **Ariadne auf Naxos** (Prima Donna), **Idomeneo** (Elettra), **Don Giovanni** (Donna Anna), **Roméo et Juliette** (Juliette), and **Il pirata** (Imogene) with the San Francisco Opera and Metropolitan Opera orchestras. A frequent collaborator with composer-librettist duo Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer, Tanea premiered the role of Diana in **If I Were You** with the Merola Opera Program and workshopped **Intelligence** as Callie Van Lew with Houston Grand Opera. She has performed Fiordiligi with “gleaming tones and impeccable dynamic control” and continues to sing Mozart heroines such as Donna Anna and Contessa. On the concert stage, Tanea has appeared as soprano soloist in Mahler’s **Symphony No. 2** and **Symphony No. 4**, Janáček’s **Glagolitic Mass**, Haydn’s **The Creation** and **Missa in Angustiis**, Mozart’s **Requiem in D minor** and **Exsultate, jubilate**, and Saint-Saëns’ **Christmas Oratorio**.

Because of her passion for increasing accessibility to classical music and opera, Tanea appears as guest artist in elementary school outreach programs across the United States. She has also curated recitals in more intimate casual venues, namely in-home salons and outdoor festivals. This season she works with pianist Andrew King and the Shoshana Foundation in a free public recital and continues a series of recitals centered around various topics such as her Romanian heritage and increased awareness of domestic violence. Continuing her work in higher education, she served as resident artist at Tennessee Wesleyan University where she gave a recital, taught lessons, and held a masterclass for undergraduate students. She also performs in collaboration with pianist Ronny Michael Greenberg and Roots of Peace, an organization based in Napa Valley whose mission it is to replace land mines with vineyards in war-torn countries such as Ukraine and Croatia. She holds a Master of Music in Voice from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees in Vocal Performance and Cello Performance from the University of Georgia.

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