

Geeta Novotny, (also credited as **Geeta Bhatnagar**) is a multi-faceted singer and actor uniquely of South Asian Indian and Irish descent. As a classical singer, Ms. Novotny has met abundant acclaim for her powerful, rich mezzo-soprano voice and her captivating stage presence. Thus far in 2007, she has performed the title role in the Handel opera *Flavio* with **Pocket Opera** in San Francisco. Also this year, Ms. Novotny performed the title role in *Carmen* with the **Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra**, the **Roswell Symphony Orchestra**, and the **Santa Maria Philharmonic** under the baton of John Farrer. In 2008, Ms. Novotny will reprise her *Carmen* for a concert with the esteemed **Trinity Lutheran Manhattan Beach Concert Series**. Also in 2008, she will debut as Mercedes in *Carmen* with the **Pacific Repertory Opera**.

Ms. Novotny has been an artist with the Los Angeles Opera since 2003. In 2005, she made her mainstage principal role debut with the **Los Angeles Opera** as the 3rd Noble Orphan in *Der Rosenkavalier* under the baton of Kent Nagano and the direction of Maximilian Schell. For three seasons she has performed the lead role of Rosina with the **Los Angeles Opera** in their nationally acclaimed tour of *Figaro's American Adventure*, which has been featured on **ABC News' Nightline**.

Since making her solo debut at **Carnegie Hall** in 2002, highlights in Ms. Novotny's career include performing as the alto soloist, along with her soprano sister Dana Bhatnagar-Vachharajani, in the *Mozart Requiem* with the **Pro Arte Chorale** and the **Haddonfield Symphony**. Prior to that, Ms. Novotny made her **New Jersey Symphony Orchestra** debut as a featured soloist in *Much Ado About Shakespeare*. These performances she reprised with her sister, and the famed actress Claire Bloom as the narrator; performing as the soloists in Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; along with performing the vocal solos of: Arne's *Three Shakespeare Songs* and Chilcot's *Orpheus With His Lute*. They performed under the baton of Nicholas McGegan and were accompanied by The Women of the Pro Arte Chorale.

This vocal duo also became the Grand Prize Winners of the **2003 International Young Artist Peninsula Music Festival Competition** in Palos Verdes, CA. For Ms. Novotny, this achievement had been a wonderful addition to the above-mentioned honor of making her debut at **Carnegie Hall**, with her sister, as the featured soloists in Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Jaime Laredo conducted the New York String Orchestra and the Young People's Chorus of NYC, along with Claire Bloom as the narrator. The Sisters first performed this piece with Ms. Bloom at the **Aspen Music Festival** with the **Aspen Chamber Symphony** under the baton of David Zinman.

In 2003, Ms. Novotny performed with the **Metropolitan Opera Orchestra**, under the baton of Ormsby Wilkins, as the mezzo-soprano soloist with the **American Ballet Theatre** at the **Metropolitan Opera House** in Sir Frederick Ashton's ballet *The Dream*. That same year, she received great accolade for her strong performance in the role of **Maddalena** in *Rigoletto* with the **Amarillo Opera**.

Ms. Novotny completed the Apprenticeship with the **Utah Opera** where she toured extensively and starred in the role of Sarica in the World Premiere of the opera *Illusions*. Prior to that, she met notable praise for her performances as the 1st Prioress in *Dialogues des Carmélites* with the **Aspen Opera Theater Center** under the baton of James Conlon and the direction of Edward Berkeley. Her other roles at AOTC include Le Mort in Stravinsky's *Le Rossignol* under the baton of Julius Rudel and the direction of Garnett Bruce. That same year, she performed the title role in Rossini's *Cinderella* with the **Fort Worth Touring Opera**.

Ms. Novotny has completed two years of graduate studies pursuing a Masters of Music at the **University of North Texas**. She also holds a B.F.A. from **Carnegie Mellon University**. Ms. Novotny has performed and studied with the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, where she was a finalist in the **AIMS International Meistersinger Competition** under the baton of Cornelius Eberhardt.

Ms. Novotny's other roles include Mrs. Nolan in *The Medium* with the **92nd Street Y** in New York City, Rebecca Nurse in *The Crucible*, The Third Lady in *The Magic Flute*, Ottavia in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and Vera Boronel in *The Consul*. She has also performed as the alto soloist in oratorio works such as: Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah*, the Bach *Magnificat*, the Mozart *Coronation Mass*, Libby Larsen's *Eleanor Roosevelt*, and has been a featured soloist with Pittsburgh's famed **River City Brass Band**. Her musical theater roles include: Anita in *West Side Story*, Mrs. Jones in *Street Scene*, Dolly in *Hello Dolly!*, Baroness Schrader in the *Sound of Music*, and Lucinda in *Into the Woods*.

In 2006, Ms. Novotny sang the theme song and lead vocal solos for the soundtrack of the film **Shanghai Red** starring Vivian Wu and Richard Burgi, which is currently generating rave reviews at several major international film festivals. As an actor, she has performed off-Broadway as a principal performer with the **Rasa Theater Company** at the **Theatre Row Theater** in New York City. She has also just completed acting as the leads in three independent films.

Ms. Novotny is a columnist and the music journalist for the magazine **The Indian American**, her writing accentuates her deep desire to educate and to share her love of classical music with the world. Ms. Novotny is also on the roster for the charitable organization **Sing for Hope**, where she sings to champion keeping music education alive in public schools.