



Desert Diva



Metropolitan Opera star Janet Hopkins

A star Shines in the Desert

**New York Metropolitan Opera
star Diva Janet Hopkins
loves the Desert**

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A star is born in the desert - Metropolitan Opera star Janet Hopkins moved from her home in New York to Cathedral City last year, making her our new favorite daughter.

"I came, did a concert and just fell in love with it out here," said Hopkins, a dramatic soprano, the richest and most darkly colored of the soprano tones.

In addition to her roles at the Met and several concert dates scheduled for this month in the valley, you can expect to hear more from her - Hopkins is developing a tour schedule for a concert series called "The Diva Dialogues."

Through a three-part opus of recitals, she will present opera, musical theater and humor to educate, entertain and

bring the classics to an accessible level.

Meanwhile, get to know the diva through her own words, culled from a recent interview:

"I really wanted to be a Broadway singer. And then it just evolved. But, then of course, when it evolved from Broadway, it was the Met. Because it's Broadway or the Met. There's nothing else. Nothing in between."

"After college I had a friend of mine who packed my stuff up in his station wagon and I got a two month sub-let, went to New York just determined to do it."

"I'm a country girl. Small town. ... And I love it. And you know what? Our parents didn't worry about us. I had to be home at sunset, but after school until sunset, nobody knew where we were and nobody cared because all of us were together playing hide and seek, kick the can and everybody knew everybody. I feel bad for kids now who have lost that youthfulness."

On moving away from NYC:

"I found myself getting wrapped up into that not giving a damn about people quite so much and really climbing up that ladder without worrying who was being kicked to get there and I don't like that in myself."

"L.A. and San Francisco - they want people who live on the West Coast. ... I've never tackled this side of the country, I didn't know this existed. I thought it stopped. There was a line there."

"As my agent says, I can sing 'Cosi fan tutti,' but they'll never hire me because no tenor who sings a duet with me would ever be heard."

"Actually, right now I'm doing Pilates and I'm finding it very helpful for my singing. ... I did a lot of karate, martial arts. ... You have to work out. You're an athlete - you're a vocal athlete."

"If kids are involved in music, they're not going to get into trouble. They get in trouble because they don't know what to do. As much as we were geeks in the music room, we weren't in trouble - we were making music."

"Music needs to be out there for kids. I'd rather have a music club than a fight club."

"I don't care if the kids are singing or playing an instrument. The point is to get them in the arts and expose them to creativity. Give them an instrument that they can make music on and create their own songs and feel self-worth."

December 7: "Christmas in Vienna," Coachella Valley Symphony, Renaissance Esmeralda Resort & Spa, Indian Wells

December 16-17: "Palm Trees and Mistletoe," The Caballeros, McCallum Theatre, Palm Desert

March 1, 2007: Healthy Family Foundation Gala, Mirada Estates, Rancho Mirage

And to hear more, check out her Web site, janethopkins.com

