

# OPERA SINGERS INITIATIVE

## Candace Otto

In July, Ms. Otto made her New York debut in a concert produced by Opera Singers Initiative, "Summer in the City." She also appeared in *La Bohème* with the San Francisco Opera Guild, covering the roles of Mimi and Musetta before taking over as Mimi. In 2008, she was seen in *Don Pasquale* with Pocket Opera (San Francisco) and was a finalist in the 2008 East Bay Opera League Scholarship Awards Competition (Oakland Lyric Opera).

Ms. Otto has performed extensively in concert and recital venues. This fall she performed a fireside concert for the Pittsburgh District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council and was featured in *Some Enchanted Evening*, produced by the Ohio Valley Opera Guild. She has also performed with the Ezio Pinza Council of American Singers of Opera (Treviso, Vittorio Venteto, Oderzo, & Motta di Livenza, Italy) and was a soloist for *The Mother of Sorrows Choir Jubilee Tour* (Florence, Milan, Assisi, Rome & The Vatican). She performed *A Musical Soirée*, a cabaret-style performance of arias and songs, to benefit the Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance (McKnight Theatre at Minnesota's Ordway Center).

A graduate of Northwestern University's theatre and musical theatre programs, she was urged by voice teacher Claudia Pinza to pursue a career in opera. She studied in Italy with the Ezio Pinza Council of America Singers of Opera where she worked with Maestra Enza Ferrari, pianist and coach for singers from Callas to Pavarotti and former director of the apprentice program at La Scala. She continues to work with voice teacher Ross Dacal and coach Marcie Stapp.

As Miss Pennsylvania 2003, she received the Bernie Wayne Performing Arts Award at the Miss America Pageant, broadcast on ABC. She made over 150 appearances during her year as Miss Pennsylvania, including ABC's "The Pyramid Show," with Donny Osmond.