Nancy Bliss Estes

Associate Faculty, Music
Class Voice; Music Appreciation; Applied Music Instruction

NORCO COLLEGE SCHOOL OF Arts & Humanities

Nancy Bliss Estes has had a varied 35 yr. musical career as a mezzo-soprano and music educator. She has sung major leading operatic and compramaria roles (Dorabella, Suzuki, Hansel, The Old Lady {*Babar the Elephant*}, the Mother {*Amahl and the Night Visitors*}, La Ciesca {*Gianni Schicci*}, Rosette {*Manon*}) with various Southland companies (Guild Opera of Los Angeles, Five Penny Opera, Lyric Opera of Orange County) and has appeared as a guest artist with the CSU Fullerton Opera Department in the title role of Carmen and as Madame de Croissey in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. As a featured mezzo-soprano soloist with the Overture Company, the community outreach ensemble of Orange County's regional opera company, Opera Pacific, she toured Southern California in opera education programs.

In addition, she has been a contracted staff singer with the following symphonic/chamber/opera and professional choruses: Pacific Chorale, William Hall Master Chorale, the John Alexander Singers, Opera Pacific (AGMA chorister), and the Crystal Cathedral Choir.

She has been privileged to sing under numerous international conductors/composers such as John Mauceri, Pierre Boulez, Anton Coppola, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and John Debney in venues such Orange County Performing Arts Center, the Los Angeles Music Center and the Hollywood Bowl. Voiceover work has included SAG/AFTRA TV commercials (Zenith TV, TRW Systems, Yes Detergent) as well as for the Las Vegas Hilton's production of JAMBIRDEE (located in the Benihana Restaurant on site). Showcased as a soloist, she has recorded for the following commercial labels: Musical Heritage Society, Takoma, Gothic and Pacific Chorale.

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As an educator, Ms. Bliss Estes has taught class/applied voice (both classical/commercial emphasis), music appreciation and musicianship courses at various colleges in both Orange County (Rancho Santiago Community College District, Southern California College) and the Inland Empire (CSU San Bernardino, Riverside Community College District). She currently serves on the music faculties of both Norco College (RCCD) and Long Beach City College. Former voice students of hers include the internationally acclaimed dramatic soprano, Deborah Voigt and Lesley McKinnell (Glinda, Nessarose, and Ensemble w/ 2nd the Nat'l Touring Company of WICKED). Ms. Bliss Estes remains active as a mezzo-soprano soloist, performing with Tinbox Theatricals (Newport Beach, CA), a readers' theatre group that presents seasonal entertainment.

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