

ABOUT JENNIFER LEE

SOPRANO, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Jennifer Lee was born in Long Beach, California and moved to Chula Vista with her family at the age of 2. Her love for music and desire to become a musician in a Korean household was something that no one in her family could fathom. It started with watching her friends taking piano lessons through obligation and also her carefree nature that drove her to sing her heart out anywhere and at any time of day. Her parents had realized that she was different, especially because she would disappear to a room with a piano every Sunday after a church service only to find her plunking out notes to songs she loved to sing.

After much pleading, she finally persuaded her parents to allow her to take piano lessons just like all her friends. She started taking piano lessons in 2nd grade and studied piano with various instructors for 9 years, but also participated in the Certificate of Merit program for 2 years during her classical training. During her middle school years, Jennifer Lee developed a strong passion to learn to read music including lead sheets that pertained to every day pop songs and contemporary Christian music, which ultimately inspired her to learn to improvise on the piano. When she was a Sophomore in high school, she was chosen to join her church's contemporary praise band as a singer and as a pianist. Little did she know that studying piano would eventually, lead to her to pursue a degree in voice at San Diego State University.

Studying piano intensively has been her prime foundation for all the other musical growths and expertise she has developed over the years, especially in school. She not only learned to read music better, but she learned to sing and play as an ensemble with much ease. Her musicianship developed over the years as she continued to play and sing in a church band, as well as her determination to study music as her major coursework. At San Diego Mesa College, Jennifer Lee has performed and toured the East Coast with the San Diego Mesa College Vocal Ensemble. In the ensemble she has performed various major works with the choir and was also the Soprano soloist for works from Mozart's *Requiem* and Mozart's *Regina Coeli* (K. 276).

Along with all her musical hobbies and career she is pursuing right now, Jennifer Lee also loves to act and imitate characters from Disney movies. Growing up her favorite Disney movie was Anastasia and Mulan. She grew up with memorizing all the Harry Potter scripts just so that she could act and say all the lines as she was playing the story through her head. This enthusiastic nature and drive inspired her to pursue the route of Opera. Her realization in the fact that she loved to perform was a big stepping stone to understanding more about herself as an individual, but also more of herself as a musician.

She has currently finished her degree at San Diego State University as a Vocal Performance Major. She has performed in various settings including her own church, with the SDSU Chamber Choir, and also lead roles in the Opera Productions in the Fall Semester, as well as Opera scenes in the Spring Semester. She has performed brief excerpts, such as Pamina from Mozart's Opera *The Magic Flute* and Donna Anna from Mozart's Opera *Don*

Giovanni. She has also performed the roles of Gianneta in Gaetano Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* and also one of the stepsisters, Noémie, in Jules Massenet's Opera *Cendrillon*. She is also actively participating in her church's contemporary praise band as a pianist and also singing for the church once a month for Communion Sundays. She is also hopes to one day set up her own private studio with various types of musical training including performance opportunities, that would benefit not just students who wish to learn for a hobby, but also for students who may be inspired to pursue a degree in music.

She has high hopes to continue to pursue her music career as a singer and hopes to go to graduate school for further studies in her major field of work. She has strong desires to perform in the Opera as well as small dreams and goals that inspire to use her voice to reach out to people.