

SOPHIE HARMSSEN, mezzo-soprano

Sophie Harmsen travelled extensively at an early age, her parents being German diplomats, and continues this in her professional career as an internationally successful and acclaimed mezzosoprano.

Concerts and Opera productions have enabled her to experience some of the world's most beautiful concert halls and opera houses as the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Teatro Real in Madrid, Palau de la Musica in Barcelona, Wigmore Hall in London, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Wien, Philharmonie de Paris, Shanghai Grand Theatre and the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg.

Sophie is frequently and recurringly invited to perform with symphony orchestras such as the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, SWR Symphonieorchester, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester (Constantinos Carydis), Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra (Daniel Harding), Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra (Andreas Spering), Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest (Jos van Veldhoven), Orchestre National de Paris (Vaclav Luks), musicAeterna (Teodor Currentzis), Konzerthausorchester Berlin (Iván Fischer), Düsseldorfer Symphoniker (Ádám Fischer), NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester (Thomas Hengelbrock) and the Freiburger Barockorchester (Jeremie Rhorer).

In the past years Sophie has continually extended her repertoire. After numerous concerts, solo recitals and CD recordings with some of the most celebrated baroque ensembles she is glad to now feel equally at home in the more romantic repertoire. Concerts and CD recordings with Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* (Kent Nagano), Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* as well as the "Rückert Lieder" (Markus Stenz), Dvorak's *Requiem* (Philippe Herreweghe), Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* (Frieder Bernius, René Jacobs) and Beethoven's 9th Symphony (Teodor Currentzis, Pablo Heras-Casado) are now equally represented in her calendar. Many of her CD recordings have received awards, for example Bruckner's *Missa Solemnis* with the RIAS Kammerchor (Diapason d'Or) and the complete recording of J.S. Bach's *Luther Kantaten* with Christoph Spering (Echo 2017).

After her beginnings at Cape Town Opera with roles including *Hermia* (Britten *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), *Graf Orlofsky* (Strauss *Die Fledermaus*), *Mercedes* (Bizet *Carmen*) and *Cherubino* (Mozart *Le nozze di Figaro*) she expanded her repertoire performing *Annio* (Mozart *La Clemenza di Tito*) at the Teatro Real Madrid, *Dorabella* (Mozart *Così fan tutte*) at the Opéra de Dijon and the Opéra de Luxembourg, *Stephano* (*Romeo et Juliette*) at the Tiroler Landestheater in Innsbruck, *Argene* (Mysliveček *L'Olimpiade*) at the opera houses Prague, Caen and Theater an der Wien to now singing repertoire by Richard Strauss (*Der Komponist Ariadne auf Naxos*). In her work with renowned directors such as Robert Wilson, Ursel and Karl-Ernst Herrmann, William Kentridge and Andreas Dresen she was able to hone her already convincing and much praised acting skills.

Sophie is a frequent performer at international festivals. The Salzburger Festspiele, Mozartwoche Salzburg, Schleswig-Holstein Musikfestival, Rheingau Musikfestival, International Händelfestspiele Göttingen and Halle and the Bachfest Leipzig, amongst many others.

This season she looks forward to concerts with Antwerp Symphony Orchestra (Dvorak *Requiem*) and Collegium Vocale Gent (Mozart *Mass in C minor*) both under the baton of Philippe Herreweghe, with Orquesta y Coro Nacionales de España and David Afkham (Bach *Mass in B minor*), with Barcelona Symphony Orchestra and Salvador Mas (Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*) as well as with Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and Rafael Payare (Beethoven 9th Symphony).

Sophie Harmsen studied at the University of Cape Town and with Prof. Dr. Edith Wiens and now lives in Berlin with her family.

“The mezzo-soprano Sophie Harmsen stood out among the cast. Her powerful Dorabella was one of the best I've heard. The psychological evolution of this character, from the naïve beginning to the doubts and the anger at the end, was precisely depicted with diverse voice colors and beautiful acting, even that in a semi-staged performance.”

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2021/2022 season (Representation: General Management)

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