

biography

KARITA MATTILA – SOPRANO



“Karita Mattila is an artist who confounds expectations... She has a voice that is most often described in terms reserved for varieties of light – radiant, luminous, incandescent, shining. The same adjectives apply to the lady herself, whose artistry and integrity literally seem to brighten whatever she sings.”

F. Paul Driscoll, *Opera News*, April 2012

Karita Mattila is one of today's most exciting lyric dramatic sopranos. She is recognised as much for the beauty and versatility of her voice as for her extraordinary stage ability. A native of Finland, Mattila was trained at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, where her teacher was Liisa Linko-Malmio, and subsequently she studied with Vera Rozsa for nearly 20 years. She sings at all the world's major opera houses and festivals, and has performed with the world's greatest conductors including Levine, Abbado, Davis, Dohnanyi, Haitink, Pappano, Rattle, Salonen and Sawallisch. Her operatic repertoire encompasses works by Beethoven, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Puccini, Wagner and Janáček.

Mattila's innate sense of drama has led to remarkable collaborations with major stage directors, including Luc Bondy in his highly acclaimed *Don Carlos*, which she performed in Paris, London and at the Edinburgh Festival; Lev Dodin in his productions of *Elektra* for the Salzburg Easter Festival and *Pique Dame* and *Salome* at the Opéra National de Paris; Peter Stein for his *Simon Boccanegra* in Salzburg and *Don Giovanni* in Chicago; and Jürgen Flimm for his *Fidelio* at the Metropolitan Opera. She is an influential artistic force in the development of new music, regularly collaborating with eminent contemporary composers in the debut performances of significant modern works. Recent performances in this genre include the world premiere of *Emilie de Chatelet* by Kaija Saariaho at the Opéra National de Lyon. She has won numerous awards throughout her distinguished career, including Musical America's Musician of the Year (one of the most prestigious honours paid to classical artists in the USA) and the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres (one of France's highest cultural honours).

Karita Mattila has many recordings to her credit on the Phillips, EMI, Sony, DG, and Ondine labels. Her 40th birthday concert, in front of nearly 12,000 people in Helsinki, was released on CD by Ondine. Other recordings include Strauss's *Vier letzte lieder* with Claudio Abbado on the DG label; arias and scenes from the operas of Puccini, Verdi, Janáček, Tchaikovsky, Wagner and R. Strauss; German Romantic arias by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Weber with Sir Colin Davis; Grieg and Sibelius songs with Sakari Oramo (all on Erato/Warner); complete recordings of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* on Decca with the late Sir Georg Solti, which won a Grammy Award in 1998; *Jenůfa* on Erato/Warner with Bernard Haitink, which won a Grammy Award in 2004; and Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder* and Shostakovich's Symphony No.14 with Sir Simon Rattle on EMI.

The 2012-13 season included Emilia Marty *The Makropoulos Case* (Finnish National Opera) and the title role of *Jenůfa* (Bayerische Staatsoper). Other recent highlights include Leonore *Fidelio* (Houston Grand Opera), the title role of Janáček's *Katya Kabanova* (Lyric Opera Chicago), Lisa *Pique Dame* (Metropolitan Opera) and *The Makropoulos Case* (San Francisco Opera). Mattila's innate sense of drama has led to remarkable collaborations with major stage directors including Luc Bondy in his highly acclaimed *Don Carlos*, and Jürgen Flimm for his *Fidelio* at the Metropolitan Opera.

Highlights of the 2013-14 season include Mattila's role debut as Marie *Wozzeck* (Royal Opera House), *Erwartung* in St Louis, the title role of *Jenufa* (Finnish National Opera), and the title role of *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Royal Opera House). Further ahead, roles include Kostelnička *Jenůfa* and Sieglinde *Die Walküre*.

Karita Mattila is represented by Intermusica.

September 2013 / 542 words. Not to be altered without permission. Please destroy all previous biographical material.

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