



Riikka Hakola

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Riikka Hakola graduated from the Sibelius-Academy in Helsinki after which she continued private studies in London, Berlin, New York and Milan. Her career took off at young age after she won the first prize at the Kangasniemi and second prize at the Timo Mustakallio Vocal competition and soon after she made the successful debut at The Finnish National Opera as Lucia di Lammermoor. Since that, she was one of the leading sopranos at the Finnish National Opera for over 15 years making numerous major roles.

Her operatic repertoire encompasses more than 50 major roles such as Violetta in La Traviata, Donna Anna and Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni, Fiordiligi in Così fan Tutte, Adina in L'elisir d'amor, Mimi in La Bohème, Rosina in Barbiere di Sevilla, Nedda in I Pagliacci, Micaela in Carmen, Tatjana in Eugene Onegin, Natasha in War and Peace, Tosca, Anna Bolena, Arabella, Luisa Miller, Chiang Ching in Nixon in China, Rosalinde in Die Fledermaus, Hanna Glawary in Merry Widow. Her latest performances (2019-2020) have been as Giuditta, Mimi, Silvia (Fagerudd: Silvia and Me), Birgitta (Sivén: Birgitta) and Queen Tye in Akhenaten.

One of Ms Hakola's most loved roles has been Violetta in La Traviata, which she has performed in 10 houses including Finnish National Opera, Stockholm and Copenhagen Royal Operas, Oslo National Opera and Bolshoi in Moscow. Donna Anna she has performed also at the Bonn Opera, Riga, Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf, and in the USA with Baltimore and Washington Opera companies. 2002 she was invited to The Metropolitan Opera Company in New York as Natasha (covering Anna Netrebko) in Sergei Prokofiev's War and Peace. Other operatic guest appearances are as Arabella in Dresden Semperoper and in Strassburg, Mulhausen, Kiev, Riga, Tallinn, Rio de Janeiro and Frankfurt opera companies.

Her appearances as a concert soloist with many internationally renowned orchestras, conductors and festivals, and together with many great opera stars (such as with Plácido Domingo in Helsinki) as well as her recitals with piano accompaniment have been widely respected. She has been performing in 35 countries.

Ms. Hakola has also performed several world premieres by contemporary composers (Rautavaara, Heininen, Hämeenniemi, Salmenhaara, Kyllönen, Linkola, Saariaho, Fagerudd). Opera compositions such as Frieda by Tikka, Tango Solo by Kyllönen and Silvia and Me by Markus Fagerudd were specially composed for her. She can also be seen in films such as Mahagonny (Jenny, 1 price in BANFF, Canada), Orpheus in the Underworld (Eurydike) and Luonnotar (composed by Jean Sibelius).

Her next performances will be as Silvia in Fagerudd: Silvia and Me (September 2021 in Sibelius-Festival) and as Queen Tye in Philip Glass: Akhnaten (September 2021 in Helsinki). She is starring as a protagonist in a new music and dance film "Mirages" (music by Kaija Saariaho, directed by Marikki Hakola). Premiere takes place in January 2021.