

Sophie Junker

SOPRANO

„irresistibly charming“
– OPÉRA MAGAZINE



Sophie Junker regularly performs with top-flight conductors including Harry Bicket (Dorinda *Orlando*), Laurence Cummings (Sigismondo in Handel's *Arminio*, Aspasia in *Alexander Balus*, Michal in *Saul*, and Bellezza in *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*), Christian Curnyn (Italian Woman in Charpentier's *Médée*, Phoebe in Rameau's *Castor et Pollux*), Masaaki Suzuki (Monteverdi's *Vespers*), and Stefano Montanari (Zerlina *Don Giovanni*).

Described by Opera magazine as "...irresistibly charming", Sophie already has an established relationship with the Opera Royal de Liège Wallonie (Elisetta *Il Matrimonio segreto*, Wanda *La Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein*, title-role in Pauline Viardot's *Cendrillon*), and Angers-Nantes Opéra (Amour *Orphée et Eurydice*, Constance *Dialogues des Carmélites*). She made her American operatic début in 2016, singing Cleis in Martini's *Sapho* and Hélène in Chabrier's *Une Éducation Manquée* (Opera Lafayette, New York, and Washington). Further operatic roles include Caio in Vivaldi's *Ottone in Villa* at the Copenhagen Opera Festival, Proserpine/Euridice in Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux enfers* (Wigmore Hall, The Hague), and Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*, Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik).

In concert, Sophie appears regularly as soloist with Concerto Copenhagen conducted by Lars Ulrik Mortensen, with David Bates' La Nuovo Musica, with the Belgium-based ensemble Vox Luminis, with Le Concert de la

Loge conducted by Julien Chauvin, with Le Poème Harmonique conducted by Vincent Dumestre and with Jonathan Cohen's Arcangelo. She performed Bach's *St John Passion* with Ensemble 1704 (Paris, Prague, Dresden, and Dortmund), Haydn's *Creation* with the Russian National Orchestra in Moscow, Lully's *Grands Motets* and toured Vespro a san Marco alongside the Chœur de Chambre de Namur conducted by Leonardo García Alarcón. Further performances included Fauré's *Requiem* conducted by Klaas Stok (Amsterdam Concertgebouw), Mozart's *Grande Messe in C minor* with B'Rock, and Handel's *Apollo e Dafne* with {oh!} Orkiestra conducted by Martyna Pastuszka.

Sophie's repertoire also includes roles such as Cunegunda in Leonardo Vinci's *Gismondo* (Vienna, Moscow, Dortmund and Bayreuth), Venere in Legrenzi's *La Divisione del Mondo* conducted by Christophe Rousset (Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Colmar, Nancy, Versailles and Cologne), Eurilla in Handel's *Il Pastor Fido* (Gliwice and Händel-Festspiele Halle) and Atalanta in Handel's *Serse* in a Clarac & Deloeuils production conducted by David Bates (Opéra de Rouen Normandie). She also made her debut at the Staatsoper Berlin as Drusilla in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* conducted by Diego Fasolis and sang the title role in Handel's *Theodora* conducted by Leonardo García Alarcón (Namur, Beaune).

Sophie's lithe and sparkling soprano has also been heard as Angelica in Vivaldi's *Orlando Furioso* (La Seine Musicale), Clori in Cavalli's

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Egisto (Royal Opera of Versailles) and *Asteria* in Handel's *Tamerlano* with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra conducted by Christopher Moulds (Tchaikovsky Hall, Moscow). In 2022, she made her debut as Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare* under the direction of George Petrou (Reisopera, Handel Festival in Göttingen) and as Atilia in Cavalli's *Eliogabalo*, directed by Calixto Bieito (Zurich Opera House).

In the 2023/24 season, Sophie will perform the role of Emira in Handel's *Siroe, re di Persia*, directed by Ulrich Peters as part of the Händel-Festspiele Karlsruhe. She will also join a production of Bach's *St John Passion* staged and choreographed by Sasha Waltz and conducted by Leonardo García Alarcón (Salzburg Easter Festival, Opéra de Dijon). Other highlights of the season include appearances

in Bach's *St Matthew Passion* (Konzerthaus, Vienna), Mendelssohn's *Paulus* (Leonardo García Alarcón, Victoria Halle Geneva) and Handel's *Judas Maccabaeus* (Vokalensemble Rastatt, Schwäbisch Gmünd and Rastatt).

The soprano's discography includes *Sacrifices* with La Nuova Musica (Harmonia Mundi), Handel's *Esther* with Laurence Cummings (Accent), Grétry's *L'Épreuve Villageoise* (Naxos), Bach's *Secular Cantatas* with the Bach Collegium Japan under Masaaki Suzuki (BIS), *Stravaganza d'amore* with Pygmalion under Raphaël Pichon (Harmonia Mundi) and Cუნegunda in Leonardo Vinci's *Gismondo* (Parnassus Arts Productions). In 2020, Sophie's first solo album, *La Francesina*, was released under the label Aparté. This publication won an International Classical Music Award as well as the Trophée Forum-Opéra.