



Sophie Junker
Soprano

Sophie Junker burst onto the international scene in 2010 by winning the London Handel Competition, consolidating her rapid rise with victory in the 2012 Cesti Competition at the Innsbruck Early Music Festival.

She now regularly performs with top-flight conductors including Harry Bicket (Dorinda **Orlando**), Laurence Cummings (Israelite Woman in Handel's **Esther** and Sigismondo in Handel's **Arminio** in Göttingen, Aspasia in **Alexander Balus** and Michal in **Saul** at the London Handel Festival), Christian Curnyn (Italian Woman in Charpentier's **Médée** for ENO, Phoebe in Rameau's **Castor et Pollux**), Richard Egarr (Drusilla/Virtu **L'Incoronazione di Poppea** and Melanto/Fortuna **Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria**), Paul McCreech (**St Matthew Passion**, **B minor Mass**, Purcell's **King Arthur**), Christophe Rousset (Erste Dame **Die Zauberflöte**), Masaaki Suzuki (Bach cantatas, 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 (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 and Euridice in Charpentier's **La Descente d'Orphée aux enfers** (Wigmore Hall, The Hague), and Belinda (**Dido and Aeneas**, Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik).

On the concert platform, Sophie is a frequent soloist with Concerto Copenhagen and Lars Ulrik Mortensen, La Nuova Musica under David Bates, Belgium-based ensemble Vox Luminis, Le Concert de la Loge under Julien Chauvin, Le Poème Harmonique under Vincent Dumestre and Arcangelo under Jonathan Cohen. She performed Bach's **St John Passion** for Ensemble 1704, Haydn's **Creation** with the Russian National Orchestra in Moscow, and Lully's **Grands Motets** with the Namur Chamber Choir conducted by Leonardo García Alarcón. She recently sung Fauré's **Requiem** under Klaas Stok (Amsterdam Concertgebouw) and Bach **Cantatas** with Dunedin Consort at the Edinburgh International Festival.

Sophie Junker recently performed the roles of Cunegunda in Leonardo Vinci's **Gismondo** (Vienna, Moscow, Dortmund, and Bayreuth), Elisetta in **Il Matrimonio segreto** (Opéra royal de Liège Wallonie), Venere in **Legrenzi's La divisione del mondo** under Christophe Rousset (Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Colmar, Nancy, Versailles, and Cologne), and Eurilla in Handel's **Il Pastor Fido** (Gliwice and Händel-Festspiele Halle). She made her house debut at Staatsoper Berlin singing Drusilla in **L'Incoronazione di Poppea** under Diego Fasolis. In Germany, she also sang the title role in **Die Getreue Alceste** by Schürmann conducted by Christina Pluhar (Rokokotheater Schwetzingen). Sophie's lithe and sparkling soprano has also been heard as Angelica in Vivaldi's **Orlando Furioso** (La Seine Musicale), Clori in Cavalli's **Egisto** (Royal Opera of Versailles) and Asteria in Handel's **Tamerlano** with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra conducted by Christopher Molds (Tchaikovsky Hall, Moscow). She has also toured various programs with Le Banquet Célèste under Damien Guillon and Collegium 1704 under Václav Luks. She returned at the Chapel of Versailles to sing Couperin's **Les Leçons de Ténèbres** along with Stéphane Fuget and the Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal.

In 2021/22 will mark Sophie's debut as Cleopatra in **Giulio Cesare** for Reisopera and the Handel Festival in Göttingen under the direction of George Petrou. She will take part in several tours such as **Johannes-Passion** with Collegium 1704 (Paris, Prague, Dresden, and Dortmund) and her solo program **La Francesina**. At the end of the season, she will perform Handel's **Apollo e Dafne** with Martyna Pastuszka and {oh!} Orkiestra Historyczna.

Her discography includes **Sacrifices** (Figlia in Carissimi's **Jephte** with La Nuova Musica for Harmonia Mundi - Sophie was described as "... the disc's star turn" by Gramophone magazine), 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 Cunegunda 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.