



Barbara Kozelj

Mezzo-soprano

Slovenian mezzo-soprano Barbara Kozelj began her musical studies at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, and the Royal Conservatory in The Hague.

Throughout her career Barbara has collaborated with conductors including Richard Egarr, Antony Hermus, Neeme Järvi, Reinbert de Leeuw, Cristian Măcelaru, Paul McCreech, Kenneth Montgomery, Stefan Soltész, Otto Tausk, Jan Willem de Vriend, and Jaap van Zweden, and with orchestras including Academy of Ancient Music, Essener Philharmoniker, Gabrieli Consort and Players, Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona, Orchestra of St Luke's, Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Tiroler Symphonieorchester Innsbruck, and most of the Dutch orchestras including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Barbara also has a close rapport with conductor Iván Fischer, and made her BBC Proms debut in Mozart's *Requiem* with his Budapest Festival Orchestra. She subsequently joined the orchestra on European tours including Third Lady *Die Zauberflöte*, as well as in the *Requiem*, and US tours including Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (subsequently released on disc by Channel Classics), and her Carnegie Hall debut performing Bach's *St Matthew Passion*.

Her versatility has excited the attention of many composers, and she has given numerous world premieres including Max Knigge's *Dobro do – Episodes from the life of a singer* (based on her own life story) at the Concertgebouw with the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra and Jan van de Putte's *Pessoa Cyclus* with the Asko|Schönberg Ensemble.

Barbara also has a strong affinity with Lieder, giving recitals with Thomas Beijer, Julius Drake, Richard Egarr and Phyllis Ferwerda. Her debut release with the Ebony Band, *Around Prague 1922 – 1937*, was released on Channel Classics to high praise from both national and international press.

On the opera stage Barbara has distinguished herself in leading roles including Ruggiero, Cyrus, Galatea and Juno (Handel), Orfeo (Gluck), Donna Elvira and Dorabella (Mozart), L'enfant (Ravel), Flosshilde (Wagner), Page (R Strauss), Kasturbai and Mrs Alexander (Glass), *La femme de chambre* (Philippe Boesmans) and *Néris* (Cherubini), for houses including Essen, Bonn and Dutch National Opera. She received international critical acclaim for her role debut as Penelope in Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* with the Academy of Ancient Music and Richard Egarr at the George Enescu International Festival Bucharest and in London's Barbican Hall, alongside Ian Bostridge as Ulisse.

Recent highlights include Elgar *Sea Pictures* and Pergolesi *Stabat Mater* with Residentie Orkest; Mahler *Lieder* with Nieuw Amsterdams Klarinet Kwartet at Concertgebouw Amsterdam; a recital with Richard Egarr for Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra; concerts with the Academy of Ancient Music; Canteloube *Songs of the Auvergne* with PHION (formerly Het Gelders Orkest), and Haydn *Harmoniemesse* and Frank Martin *In terra pax* with Radio Filharmonisch Orkest.

Highlights this season and beyond include Asko|Schönberg Ensemble Bettison *The light of lesser days*; Schönberg's chamber arrangement of Mahler *Das Lied von der Erde* with Camerata RCO at the Flanders Festival Ghent; Wagner *Wesendonk Lieder*, Respighi *Il tramonto* and Mozart *Requiem*



with the Residentie Orkest; Beethoven *Symphony No 9* with the Athens State Orchestra; a revival of *Tristan und Isolde* and her role debut as Magdelone Nielsen *Maskarade* for Oper Leipzig; Giovanni Battista Ferrandini *Il pianto di Maria* and Handel *Dixit Dominus* with Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra; a world premiere for Alba Rosa Vival festival at the Muziekgebouw Amsterdam; a recital with organist Tomaž Sevšek at the Liszt Academy Budapest and Rossini *Petite messe solennelle* and Mozart *Requiem* with Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne for the Aix-en-Provence Festival de Pâques.