

The German soprano Ricarda Merbeth is one of the leading singers in her field and is in demand worldwide as a Wagner and Strauss interpreter. After her studies at the Hochschule für Musik "Mendelssohn Bartholdy" in Leipzig she began her career in Magdeburg and Weimar. In 1999 she made her debut as Marzeline in Fidelio at the Vienna State Opera and was a member of the ensemble until 2005. Since then she has sung Contessa, Donna Anna, Pamina, Fiordiligi, Chrysothemis, Elisabeth, Eva, Irene, Elsa, Marschallin and Sieglinde.

A special highlight in 2004 was her Daphne in a new production at the Vienna State Opera. With this title role by Richard Strauss, Ricarda Merbeth achieved an international breakthrough. The artist is still associated with the Vienna State Opera today through regular guest engagements. In 2001 she was honoured with the Eberhard Waechter Medal and in 2010 was appointed Austrian Chamber Singer.

Further milestones of her career were engagements at the Bayreuth Festival: 2000 at the Jürgen Flimm-Ring as Freia and Gutrune, 2002 to 2005 and 2007 as Elisabeth in TANNHÄUSER and from 2013 to 2018 she sang the role of Senta in the production DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER.

Since 2006 she has appeared as a freelance artist at the world's leading opera houses, including the Bayreuth Festival, Hamburg State Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Vienna State Opera, Milan Scala, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin, New National Theatre Tokyo, Opera Nationale de Paris, Teatro Real Madrid, Dutch National Opera, La Monnaie in Brussels, Royal Opera House in London. She sings all important roles in her field: Elektra, Helena, Ariadne, Marietta, Marschallin, Senta, Leonore, Emilia Marty, Elsa, Marie, Isolde, Goneril, Elisabeth and Venus, as well as the Brünnhilden in Wagner's Ring. Her concert repertoire includes Wesendonck Lieder, War Requiem by Benjamin Britten, Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, Stabat Mater by Szymanowski, Glagolitic Mass by Leos Janacek, Four Last Songs and Brentano Songs by Richard Strauss as well as the 8th Symphony by Gustav Mahler.

She works with renowned conductors such as Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Semyon Bychkov, Riccardo Chailly, Myung-whun Chung, Christoph von Dohnányi, Daniele Gatti, Marek Janowski, Mariss Jansons, Philippe Jordan, Vladimir Jurowski, Fabio Luisi, Ingo Metzmacher, Kent Nagano, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Seiji Ozawa, Roberto Rizzi-Brignoli, Donald Runnicles, Pinchas Steinberg, Christian Thielemann, Constantin Trinks, Franz Welser-Möst.

In recent years the artist has made important role debuts: 2016 Isolde at the Hamburg State Opera, 2017/2018 Turandot and Brünnhilde in SIEGFRIED at the Deutsche Oper Berlin and 2018 Elektra at the Milan Scala and in 2019 at Staatsoper Unter den Linden under Daniel Barenboim. November 2019 she sang again the title role in DIE ÄGYPTISCHE HELENA at the Scala. 2020 she sang the following roles: Brünnhilde / DIE WALKÜRE in Lisbon and Madrid, Isolde/ TRISTAN UND ISOLDE at the Royal Operahouse London, Senta /DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER at the Berlin State Opera, Elektra at Wiener Staatsoper. For Radio France she recorded Brünnhilde in SIEGFRIED and GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG with L'Orchestre de l'Opéra national de Paris conducted by Philippe Jordan.

Status as of January 2021