

Vita Ks. Ricarda Merbeth / Lang

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 studying at the Hochschule für Musik "Mendelssohn Bartholdy" in Leipzig, she began her career first in Magdeburg and Weimar. In 1999 she made her debut as Marzelline in *Fidelio* at the Vienna State Opera and was an ensemble member until 2005. Since then she has sung roles such as Contessa, Donna Anna, Pamina, Fiordiligi, Chrysothemis, Elisabeth, Eva, Irene, Elsa, Marschallin and Sieglinde.

A particular highlight was her Daphne in a new production at the Vienna State Opera in 2004. Ricarda Merbeth achieved her international breakthrough with this title role by Richard Strauss. 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 Kammersängerin.

Further milestones in her career were engagements at the Bayreuth Festival: in 2000 in the Jürgen Flimm Ring as Freia and Gutrune, from 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*.

Freelance since 2006, she has appeared at the world's leading opera houses, including the Bayreuth Festival, Hamburg State Opera, Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin, Bavarian State Opera, Vienna State Opera, La Scala Milan, 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 the major 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, and Gustav Mahler's 8th Symphony.

She works with renowned conductors such as Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Semyon Bychkov, Riccardo Chailly, Myung-whun Chung, Christoph von Dohnányi, Dan Ettinger, Daniele Gatti, Edward Gardner, Thomas Guggeis, 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 Ricarda Merbeth has developed her current most important roles - Isolde, Brünnhilden, Senta, Elektra, Färberin, Ortrud, Turandot, among others - vocally/interpretatively together with Prof. Ks Wolfgang Millgramm in Berlin.

In recent years, the artist made important role debuts: Isolde at the Hamburg State Opera in 2016, the title role in *TURANDOT* as well as Brünnhilde in *SIEGFRIED* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin in 2017/2018, and Elektra at La Scala in Milan in 2018 and at the Berlin State Opera under Daniel Barenboim in 2019. In autumn 2019 she sang the title role in *DIE ÄGYPTISCHE HELENA* again at La Scala.

In 2020 she sang 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 the Vienna State Opera, most recently Brünnhilde / *GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG* at the Teatro Real Madrid. For **Radio France** she recorded Brünnhilde in *GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG/ SIEGFRIED* with L'Orchestre de l'Opéra national de Paris conducted by Philippe Jordan.

In 2022 she will again sing Brünnhilde in *GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG* at the Teatro Real de Madrid and *TURANDOT* at the Spring Festival in Tokyo. At the Berlin State Opera she will sing the title role in *ELEKTRA* and at the Bregenz Festival she will sing Brünnhilde in *SIEGFRIED* in concert as well as Leonore / *FIDELIO* and Ortrud in *LOHENGRIN* in Bologna. Major projects are also lined up for 2023: Kundry in *PARSIFAL* with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Isolde in Valencia and the Brünnhilde in

the Ring at the Semperoper Dresden and the Vienna State Opera, Senta / DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER at the Baltic Opera Festival and, in autumn 2023, ELEKTRA again at the Berlin State Opera. This will be followed in 2024 by Färberin / FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN at the Théâtre du Capitole Toulouse, the Brünnhilde / RING -Zyklus at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, and ELEKTRA at the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples.

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