Vita Ks. Ricarda Merbeth / Lang German soprano Ricarda Merbeth is one of the leading singers in her field and is in demand worldwide as an interpreter of Wagner and Strauss. After studying at the Mendelssohn Bartholdy University of Music in Leipzig, she began her career in Magdeburg and Weimar. In 1999, she made her debut as Marzelline in Fidelio at the Vienna State Opera and was a member of the ensemble until 2005, singing roles including Contessa, Donna Anna, Pamina, Fiordiligi, Chrysothemis, Elisabeth, Eva, Irene, Elsa, Marschallin and Sieglinde. She achieved her international breakthrough in 2004 with the role of Daphne by Richard Strauss. The artist is still associated with the Vienna State Opera through regular guest engagements. In 2001, she was honoured with the Eberhard Waechter Medal and in 2010 she was appointed Austrian Kammersängerin. Other milestones in her career during this period were engagements at the Bayreuth Festival: in 2000 in Jürgen Flimm's Ring as Freia and Gutrune, from 2002 to 2005 and in 2007 as Elisabeth in TANNHÄUSER, and from 2013 to 2018 she sang the role of Senta in the production of DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER.

Freelance since 2006, she now makes guest appearances at leading opera houses, including the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin, Bayreuth Festival, Hamburg State Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Vienna State Opera, La Scala Milan, Opéra National de Paris, Teatro Real Madrid, Gran Teatre del Liceu, La Monnaie in Brussels and Sydney Opera House. She sings all the major roles in her repertoire, including Brünnhilde (WALKÜRE, SIEGFRIED, GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG), Isolde, Senta, Kundry, Ortrud, Elsa, Elisabeth and Venus (TANNHÄUSER), Färberin, Elektra (ELEKTRA), Helena (ÄGYPTISCHE HELENA), Salome, Ariadne, Marschallin, Turandot) and Leonore (FIDELIO).

She has worked with conductors including Simone Young, Philippe Augin, Daniel Barenboim, Pierre Boulez, Frank Beermann, 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, Kirill Petrenko, Roberto Rizzi-Brignoli, Donald Runnicles, Pinchas Steinberg, Christian Thielemann and Franz Welser-Möst.
The following directors have accompanied her career: Daniele Abbado, Philippe Arlaud, Sven-Eric Bechtholf, Calixto Bieto, Nicolas Brieger, Robert Carsen, Luigi De Angelis, Michael Fau, Jürgen Flimm, Kasper Holten, Nicolas Joel, Günter Krämer, Marco Arturo Marelli, Mario Martone, Alex Ollé, Charles Roubaud, Otto Schenk, Matthias von Stegmann, Achim Thorwald, Katharina Wagner and Krzysztof Warlikowski.

Important debuts since 2016: Isolde at the Hamburg State Opera, Turandot and Brünnhilde / SIEGFRIED at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Elektra at La Scala in Milan and at the Berlin State Opera. She also sang the title role in DIE ÄGYPTISCHE HELENA at La Scala in Milan in 2019. In 2020, she sang Brünnhilde / DIE WALKÜRE in Lisbon and Madrid, Senta at the Berlin State Opera, and Elektra at
the Vienna State Opera. In 2022 and 2023, Ricarda Merbeth appeared, among other engagements, as Brünnhilde in GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG at Teatro Real in Madrid, Turandot at the Spring Festival in Tokyo, in the title role of ELEKTRA at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, as Ortrud in Bologna, Kundry with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Isolde in Valencia, the three Brünnhilde roles in the RING cycle at the Semperoper Dresden and the Vienna State Opera, Senta at the Baltic Opera Festival and at Hamburg State Opera, as well as returning to ELEKTRA at both the Berlin and Vienna State Operas.

In 2024, 2025 and 2026, she appeared, among other highlights, for the first time in a staged production as the Dyer's Wife in DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN at the Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse, as well as in Schönberg's GURRE-LIEDER at the Sydney Opera House, as Brünnhilde in the RING cycle at Deutsche Oper Berlin, in Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with the Staatskapelle Dresden, as ELEKTRA and SALOME at Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, as Senta at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, as Isolde at Deutsche Oper Berlin, as ELEKTRA at the Finnish National Opera, as SALOME at Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, and in her staged role debut as Kundry at the Tiroler Festspiele Erl.

In 2026 and 2027, Ricarda Merbeth will appear, among other engagements, as ELEKTRA at Deutsche Oper Berlin and at the Maggio Musicale in Florence, as Ortrud at Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía in Valencia, and in her role debut as the Foreign Princess in RUSALKA at the Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse. She will also perform Richard Strauss' BRENTANO-LIEDER and FOUR LAST SONGS with the Orchestra of the Finnish National Opera in Helsinki, sing Brünnhilde's Immolation Scene from GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG and the Liebestod from TRISTAN UND ISOLDE with the Orchestra of the RAI in Turin, as well as FOUR LAST SONGS in Würzburg.