

Sophie Harmsen

Mezzo-Soprano



“Sophie Harmsen is a vocally powerful Octavian, extraordinarily virile in her acting.”

Opera Online

Sophie Harmsen has become internationally successful both in the concert hall and on the operatic stage, delivering beautifully crafted, emotionally intelligent performances in a diverse range of repertoire.

She most recently made her role and house debut performing **Komponist** in Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Teatro la Fenice having sung **Octavian** in *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Felsenreitschule in Salzburg. Praised for her acting skills she has performed a variety of roles at houses including Cape Town Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, Opéra de Dijon and Theater an der Wien.

After numerous concerts, solo recitals and CD recordings with some of the most celebrated baroque ensembles she is glad to now feel equally at home in more romantic repertoire. Concerts and CD

recordings with Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* (Kent Nagano), Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* as well as the *Rückert Lieder* (Markus Stenz), Dvorak's *Requiem* (Philippe Herreweghe), Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* (Frieder Bernius, René Jacobs) and Beethoven's *9th Symphony* (Teodor Currentzis, Pablo Heras-Casado) are now equally represented in her calendar.

This season's highlights include Beethoven *Missa Solemnis* with B'Rock under René Jacobs and with the BBC NOW under Andrew Manze, Beethoven *Mass in C Major* on European tour with Orchestre des Champs Elysées under Philippe Herreweghe, Bruckner *Te Deum* with the SWR Symphonieorchester and Pablo Heras-Casado, Beethoven's *9th Symphony* with the Orchestre des Champs Elysées and Herreweghe, the Hamburger Symphoniker under Pablo Gonzalez and Warsaw Philharmonic under Krzysztof Urbanski as well as concerts with the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin and Netherlands Radio Philharmonic.

Sophie is frequently and recurrently invited to perform with symphony orchestras such as the Antwerp Symphony, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, SWR Symphonieorchester, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester, Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin, MDR Sinfonieorchester, Wiener Symphoniker, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest, Orchestre National de Paris, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Düsseldorfer Symphoniker and NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester. Conductors she has worked with include Sylvain

Cambreling, Constantinos Carydis, Karina Canellakis, Alexander Liebreich, Iván Fischer, Pablo Heras-Casado, Thomas Hengelbrock, Philippe Herreweghe, René Jacobs, Frieder Bernius, Vaclav Luks, Christophe Rousset and Markus Stenz.

She continues to perform much baroque repertoire particularly music of Bach and Handel with both baroque and symphonic orchestras and works regularly with AKAMUS, Les Talens Lyriques, B'Rock Orchestra, the Freiburger Barockorchester and the Kammerorchester Basel.

Many of her CD recordings have received awards including Bruckner's *Missa Solemnis* with the RIAS Kammerchor (Diapason d'Or) and the complete recording of J.S. Bach's *Luther Kantaten* with Christoph Spering (Echo 2017).

Sophie Harmsen studied at the University of Cape Town and with Prof. Dr. Edith Wiens, has been mentored by Tobias Truniger for many years and now lives in Berlin with her family.

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