



Lise Davidsen

Soprano

Rarely has a young singer made such an enormous impact on the classical music industry as Lise Davidsen. A superb talent, the Norwegian soprano shot to prominence in summer 2015 when she was crowned winner of both the Operalia and the Queen Sonja competitions. Soon after she made triumphant debuts with Glyndebourne Festival, Opernhaus Zürich, Wiener Staatsoper, Aix-en-Provence Festival, BBC Proms and Wigmore Hall. In May 2018 Davidsen signed an exclusive recording contract with Decca Classics, becoming the first Scandinavian dramatic soprano to sign to the label since Birgit Nilsson and the first Norwegian singer to join Decca since Kirsten Flagstaad. Her debut album is slated for release in spring 2019.

The 18/19 season sees Davidsen making her hugely anticipated Bayreuth debut as Elisabeth in a new production of *Tannhäuser* conducted by Valery Gergiev. The role is also a vehicle for her returns to Opernhaus Zürich and Bayerische Staatsoper. Other highlights include her debut as Liza Queen of Spades at Oper Stuttgart and a company debut with Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in their *Ring Cycle*. On the concert platform she makes a highly anticipated return to the BBC Proms with Verdi's *Requiem* together with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Andrés Orozco Estrada as well appearing at the Edinburgh International Festival with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Vasily Petrenko and a programme of Strauss songs. Further performances throughout the season include *Vier letzte Lieder* with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, the Stavanger Orchestra and the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra; an open air concert with Oslo Philharmonic; her debut as Sieglinde *Die Walküre* with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Sir Andrew Davis and with the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra and Edo de Waart; *Wesendonck Lieder* and *Rückert-Lieder* with the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra; and solo recitals with James Baillieu at Opernhaus Zürich and Schubertiada Vilabertran.

Recent operatic successes include the title role of *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Aix-en-Provence Festival, Wiener Staatsoper and Glyndebourne Festival; *Agathe* in a new production of *Der Freischütz* at Opernhaus Zürich; Cherubini's *Medea* at Wexford Festival; *Santuzza* *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Sancta Susanna* in Oslo; and *Isabella Das Liebesverbot* at Teatro Colon. Other engagements include her house debuts with Bavarian State Opera as *Ortlinde* *Die Walküre* and at Frankfurt Opera for its *Ring Cycle* both in 2016.

On the concert platform she was an Artist in Residence with Bergen Philharmonic

Orchestra in 17/18 season where her appearances included an open-air concert, Verdi's *Requiem* and *Wesendonck Lieder* as well as recital performances. Other recent concert engagements include her BBC Proms debut with John Storgards and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Beethoven Symphony No. 9 with the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Strauss Op. 27 songs with the Oslo Philharmonic; Verdi's *Requiem* with the Philharmonia Orchestra; Danish National Symphony Orchestra; and Deutsch Skandinavisches Jugendorchester; Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* with the Randers Chamber Orchestra; *Vier letzte Lieder* with Oslo Philharmonic; George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra, Bucharest; and Copenhagen Philharmonic; and Freia *Das Rheingold* with Odense Symphony Orchestra. A dedicated recitalist she made a hugely acclaimed London recital debut with James Baillieu in the Rosenblatt Recital Series at the Wigmore Hall and with Helmut Deutsch at Bergen International Festival.

Lise Davidsen's talent has attracted serious attention since the outset of her musical training. A 2014 graduate of the Opera Academy in Copenhagen, she has studied under Susanna Eken, previously gaining a degree from Grieg Academy of Music in Bergen. In 2015 she was crowned winner of both the Operalia and the Queen Sonja competitions. Her breakthrough performances won her the First Prize, the Birgit Nilsson Award and the Audience Prize at the Operalia competition in London as well as the prize for the best performance of Norwegian music and the Ingrid Bjoner Scholarship at the Queen Sonia International Music Competition. She is also a triple winner at the 2015 Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in Amsterdam and a recipient of many awards, including the HSBC Aix-en-Provence Laureate, Statoil Talent Bursary Award, Léonie Sonning Music Prize, Danish Singers Award 2014 and the Kirstin Flagstad Award 2015. In 2018 she was the recipient of the Queen Ingrid Honory Grant.

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