

# CV Piia Komsi - Soprano Coloratura

*"Komsi's voice is phenomenal, capable of extremes of pitch and textures beyond the range of most, combined with extraordinarily crisp articulation. Her voice is almost superhumanly elastic, her diction precise even in phrases as convoluted as those thrown at her by Joyce and Eötvös."* – Anne Ozorio, [Opera Today](#)

*"Most of all, though, the whole 40-minute work sets a fearsome test for any coloratura soprano, and Komsi passed it superbly, meeting every challenge with real operatic brilliance."* – Andrew Clements, [The Guardian](#)

Piia Komsi is known for her exceptionally high and flexible voice and virtuoso technique. She is a successful international performer of baroque, classical and contemporary repertoire - not only in opera and orchestral music, but also chamber music and lied. Piia Komsi has been a muse to many contemporary composers. In May of 2017, Komsi made her successful debut with the New York Philharmonic in Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Wing on Wing*.

Piia Komsi's breakthrough was as the Maid in Thomas Adès' opera *Powder Her Face*. Her operatic roles have included Martha in *Le Malentendu* by Panisello, Gepopo and Venus in *Le Grand Macabre* by Ligeti, the Duchesse de Guise in the *Massacre* by Mitterer, Pamina and Queen of the Night (*Magic Flute*), Brünnhilde (Wagner/Jonathan Dove: *Ring Saga*), Medea (Pascal Dusapin: *Medeamaterial*), The Cat (Chin: *Alice in Wonderland*), and the cello-playing daughter ( Heinz-Juhani Hofmann: *Ahti Karjalainen*), among others. Piia Komsi has been engaged by major opera houses including the Bologna Teatro Comunale, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, The Finnish National Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper München, Théâtre et Musique Paris, San Carlo Teatro Napoli, Teatro Olimpico Rome, and several free opera groups in Finland.

Piia Komsi has a strong background in early church music, singing with her twin sister Anu Komsi in the children's choir of the Kokkola Church, and continuing throughout her professional career - first as a continuo cellist and then as a soprano soloist.

As a soloist Piia Komsi has performed with numerous orchestras: New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, BBC London and BBC Wales National, Bayerischer Rundfunk Orchester, London Sinfonietta, L'Ensemble Intercontemporain, Philharmonique Orchestre de Radio France, Ensemble Modern, Oslo Philharmonic, Stockholm Royal Philharmonic, Gulbenkian Orch., Gothenburg Symphony, Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Musica, Remix, MDR Leipzig, NDR Hamburg, Köln Musik Fabrik, Elision, Finnish orchestras including early music and new music orchestras. She has worked with many of today's leading conductors, such as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Alan Gilbert, Peter Eötvös, Kent Nagano, Sakari Oramo, Jukka-Pekka Saraste,

Francois-Xavier Roth and Peter Rundel. Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Wing on Wing* was composed to Piia Komsi and her twin sister Anu, and it has since been in the repertoire of many international concert venues.

With her background as a cellist (she was a member of the Finnish National Orchestra until 2001), Piia Komsi's latest challenge is to sing while simultaneously playing the cello. Several composers have already written new pieces for her unique soprano coloratura-cellist combination.

Piia Komsi's recordings include *Solaris* (Naxos/Proprius, chosen for the best art CD of the year 2012 by Kotimaa), Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Wing on Wing* (Deutsche Grammophon), *Akrostichon Wortspiel* by Unsuk Chin (Deutsche Grammophon), *From the Grammar of Dreams* by Kaija Saariaho (Ondine, chosen as the best CD of the year-prize in YLE), *Procris* by Wennäkoski (Alba, Emma-Prize 2008), Opera *Mothers and Daughters* by Tuomela (Aulos), *Alice in Wonderland* by Unsuk Chin (DVD, 2007), *Ahti Karjalainen - elämä, Kekkonen ja teot* by Heinz-Juhani Hofmann ( Alba 2015).

The full operatic and repertoire list is available at [piiakomsi.com](http://piiakomsi.com)  
[Piia Komsi on Youtube](#)