

CV: Piia Komsi

"Komsi's voice is phenomenal, capable of extremes of pitch and textures beyond the range of most - - - Her voice is almost superhumanly elastic."- Anne Ozorio, Opera Today.

"Most of all, the 40-minute Eötvös's work sets a fearsome test for any coloratura soprano, and Komsi passed it superbly, meeting every challenge with real operatic brilliance." -Andrew Clements, Guardian.

The Finnish soprano coloratura Piia Komsi is an internationally acclaimed performer with an exceptionally extensive repertoire ranging from early music to newest contemporary works. Komsi is particularly known for her special skill: singing and playing the cello simultaneously, as she started her musical career as a cellist.

Komsi has performed with several orchestras all over the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Bayerischer Rundfunk Orchester, Philharmonic Orchestre de Radio France, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Musik Fabrik Köln, Ensemble Modern and Remix.

Her opera engagements include Bayerisches Staatsoper, Théâtre et Musique Paris, Teatro Comunale Bologna, Teatro Colón Buenos Aires, among Finnish National Opera, many independent opera companies and Nimrod company productions. She was awarded the Abbiati-prize of the best modern opera premiere in Italy 2017 for *Medea* (by Pascal Dusapin).

Piia Komsi's newest CD is a recording of *Soita. Kirjoita joskus. Ruf an. Schreib doch mal*, solo works by Heinz-Juhani Hofmann. The CD (Fuga) was released July 2021. Other recent recordings are *Exil3* by Vinko Globokar (NEOS) and *Die Schreckliche gewaltige Kinder* by Rolf Riehm (WERGO). Komsi has also a solo album titled *SOLARIS* (Naxos).

In 2019, Piia Komsi was nominated in two categories for the prestigious Opus Klassik 2019 Awards: Female Singer of the Year, and Vocal Soloist in a live concert recording.

In the following seasons 2022-2023, Piia Komsi will perform leading roles in two new world premieres:

Paola Livorsi: Opera/dance theater *Medusa*, August/September 2022

Heinz-Juhani Hofmann: Opera *Hypatia Aleksandrialaisesta* (Espoon City Theatre)

Piia Komsi is currently working on a recording project of Anton Webern's songs. She is also the Artistic Director of the multiart company Exit3.

Piia Komsi's full repertoire is available on <https://piiakoms.com/>

Awards and Nominations

2019: Abbiati Award for the best contemporary opera performance in Italy 2017

2009: Emma-Prize for the best recording of the year 2009
(Lotta Wennäkoski:Procris/ Markku Luolajan-Mikkola)

2019: nominated for the Opus Klassik 2019 Award in two categories:

Category 1: Female Singer of the Year

Piia Komsu received the nomination in this category for her performance of Rolf Riehm's "Die schrecklich-gewaltigen Kinder / O Daddy", in a live recording.

Category 9: Vocal Soloist Recording: Concert

Komsu, Piia – Rolf Riehm: "Die schrecklich-gewaltigen Kinder / O Daddy"

Discography

Soita. Kirjoita joskus. Ruf an. Schreib doch mal. Solo works by Heinz-Juhani Hofmann (Fuga)

Wohin (Zoltán Jeney/Presto Classical)

Die Schrecklich- Gewaltigen Kinder (Rolf Riehm/WERGO /ensemble modern)

Exile 3 (Vinko Globokar/ Bayerische Radio Symphonie Orchester)

Ahti Karjalainen - Elämä, Kekkonen ja teot (Heinz-Juhani Hofmann/Alba, 2016 Emma -award nominated)

Wing on Wing (Esa-Pekka Salonen/DG)

Akrostichon Wortspiel (Unsuk Chin/DG)

From the Grammar of dreams (Kaija Saariaho/Ondine, Record of the Year -award),

Procris (Lotta Wennäkoski/Gamba Nova/Alba, 2009 Emma -award)

Äidit ja Tyttäret-ooppera/Pohjolan Tytär (Tapio Tuomela/AULoS).

Alice in Wonderland -ooppera DVD (Unsuk Chin/ Kent Nagano/Bayerische Staatsoper)

Teaching Experience

2021 Voice Master Class, Joutsenon taidekesä laulun mestarikurssi, at Joutsenon opisto

2017 - 2019 Lecturer in classical singing at the Centria university of applied sciences (Kokkola)

October, 2016 Master class for singers and conductors at Sibelius-Academy Conducting Class

January, 2013 Master class for singers and composers at Sibelius-Academy

Private voice students: Annabella Qi, since 2018
Anja Voipio, 2018
Michelangelo Chiodo 2011-2012
Erik Rousi, 2012-2013

Jury Member

2016 - 2019 Jury Member, Cello A- and B- exams at the Sibelius-Academy/University of Arts
2015- 2016 Jury Member, voice exams in West-Helsinki Music Institute

Engagements

1989 - 2001 Tenured Cellist, Finnish National Opera Orchestra

Operatic Engagements

October, 2017 Teatro Comunale di Bologna

Dusapin: Medeamaterial / Medea

April, 2016

Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires

Panisello: Le Malentendu / Martha

April, 2015

Théâtre du Capitole, Toulouse

Mitterer: Massacre / Duchesse de Guise

2013 - 2014

Theater Chemnitz

György Ligeti: Le Grand Macabre / Venus And Gepopo

2011 - 2012

West Coast Kokkola Opera

Mozart: Magic Flute / Pamina

Heinz-Juhani Hofmann: Ahti Karjalainen / Kraut (world premiere)

Operatic Engagements, continued

2011	Théâtre et Musique, Paris
2007	Dusapin: Medea
2005	Wagner: Ring cycle / Brünnhilde
2010	Opera Lille Dusapin: Medea
2010	Nimrod/Teatro Olimpico, Rome Michael Berkeley: For You / Joan, Police Woman, Nurse
2007	Bayerische Staatsoper, München Unsuk Chin: Alice In Wonderland / Cat (world premiere, chosen The Premiere Of The Year by Opern Welt)
2006, 2005, 2004,	Finnish National Opera
2000, 2002	Tuomela: Mothers And Daughters / Maiden (world premiere) Adams: The Death Of Klinghoffer / Dancing girl Linjama: The Finnish Tapir / Chicken (world premiere) Heiniö: Time Of Serpent / Ida (world premiere)
2006	Finnish Radio Orchestra, YLE TV Mozart: Der Schauspieldirektor / Mademoiselle Silberklang
2004	Opera Cava, Nilsjä Mozart: Magic Flute / The Queen Of The Night
2003	Taite-group, Helsinki Wennäkoski-Schumann: Frauenliebe und Leben (world premiere)
2002	San Carlo Napoli, Politeama Adès: Powder Her Face / Maid
2001	Tel Aviv Opera/Nimrod, Chicago Modern Art Museum Theatre, Zagreb, Rome, Teatro Olimpico Adès: Powder Her Face / Maid
2002	Pori Opera Mozart: Magic Flute / The Queen Of The Night

Operatic Engagements, continued

- 2000 Opera Skaala, Helsinki
Hakola/Matti Hagelberg: The Master Sings Of Planet Mars / Pilgrim,
Matti Hagelberg twin (world premiere)
- 1995-1996 Turku Music Festival Castle
Charpentier: Les Arts Florissants / Paix
- 1987-1989 Avanti! Opera
Mozart: Der Schauspieldirektor / Mademoiselle Silberklang Vakkilainen:
Beer Opera (Olutooppera-Lätäkkö) / Huna (world premiere)

Soloist Engagements with Orchestra

New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony London and Wales/Cardiff, London Sinfonietta, Bayerischer Rundfunk BRSO, Orchestre Philharmonie de Radio France, NDR Hamburg, MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonie, Stockholm Royal Philharmonie, Gulbenkian Symphony Orchestra, Slovenska filharmonija Academia Philharmonicorum, Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música, Remix Casa da Musica, Gothenburg Symphony, Seoul Symphony orchestra, Eesti State Symphony Orchestra ERSO, L'Ensemble Intercontemporain, Köln Musik Fabrik, Frankfurt Ensemble Moderne, Nieuw Ensemble Amsterdam, Elision Ensemble Brisbane, Tallinn Barock Orchestra, Barock Orchestra St.Petersburg, Nordic Symphony Orchestra, Stockholm Kammerensemble, Musik Werkstatt Wien, Israelian Contemporary Players.

Finnish orchestras: Finnish Radio Orchestra, Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, Tampere Philharmonic, Lahti Symphony, Oulu Symphony, Jyväskylä Sinfonia, Pori Sinfonietta, Kokkola Orchestra, Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, St. Michel's Strings, Lappeenranta Orchestra, Vaasa City Orchestra, Seinäjoki City Orchestra, Lohja City Orchestra, Kymi Sinfonietta, Avanti!, Zagros-ensemble, Uusinta- ensemble, Helsinki Baroque Orchestra, Finnish Baroque Orchestra, Tapiola Sinfonietta, The Sixth Floor Baroque Orchestra, Total Cello Ensemble, Kaartin Soittokunta/Military Orchestra of Kaarti, Joensuu City Orchestra.

Operatic Repertoire

ARTIST (Jovanka Trbojevic: Opera Absurdium) Monologue opera, directed by Akse Pettersson

Viitasaari Time of Music Festival 2014

ADELE (J. Strauss: Die Fledermaus)

Kokkola Opera, Helsinki guest performances January 19-26, 2008

LA TESTA d'ADRIANA (Raymond Murray Schafer) for soprano and accordeon

Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival 2014

BRITISH DANCING GIRL (cover) (Adams: The Death of Klinghoffer)

Finnish National Opera, Helsinki 2001 & 2003

BRÜNNHILDE (Richard Wagner, Jonathan Dove, Graham Vick: Ring: Valkyria, Siegfried, Götterdämmerung)

Theatre et Musique, Antoine Gindt, Remix Ensemble, Peter Rundel, Strasbourg Festival Musica, Oct 2 2011, Paris, Theatre Saint-Quentin-Yvelines 15-17th oct 2011, Theatre Nimes, Nov 5-7, 2011, Opera Reims Dec 2011

DUCHESS de GUISE (Mitterer: Massacre)

Théâtre du Capitole, Toulouse, April 2015

HUNA (A. Vakkilainen: The Beer Opera)

Old Student Theatre, Helsinki, 1989 (televised)

IDA (M. Heiniö: Alice – The Moment of the Snake)

World Premiere, Finnish National Opera, Fall 2006

JOAN, NURSE, POLICE WOMAN (Michael Berkeley: For You)

Roma Teatro Olympico, Nov 2010, cond. Vittorio Parisi

KANA (J. Linjama: Suomalainen Tapiiri)

Finland National Opera, Helsinki 2004 –2005

KRAUT (Heinz-Juhani Hofmann/Juha Hurme: Ahti Karjalainen - Elämä, Kekkonen ja teot)

World premiere at Kokkola West Coast Opera 2012

Kokkola Opera Summer, 2016

LESBINA (Galuppi: Il Filosofo di Campagna)

Festival Lumières, Suomenlinna, 2005

MADEMOISELLE SILBERKLANG (W.A. Mozart: The Impresario)

Finlandia Hall with Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, cond. Oramo (televised concert version) 2006,
Old Student Theatre, Helsinki, 1989

MAID (T. Adès: Powder Her Face)

Touring production - Rome, Naples, (Italy), Winterthur (Switzerland), Odense (Denmark), Zagreb
(Kroatia), Chicago (USA), Tel Aviv (Israel) 2000-2002, Musica Nova Festival, Helsinki, cond. Susanna
Mälkki, 1999

MARTHA (Fabián Panisello: Le Malentendu)

Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires, 7th - 12th April, 2016

Conductor Walter Kobera

Warsaw Autumn - International Festival of Contemporary Music, 17th - 18th September, 2016

Conductor Fabián Panisello

MATTI HAGELBERG & A PILGRIM (K. Hakola: The Master Singers of Planet Mars)

Sankt Pölten Concert Hall (Austria) 2005, Ateneum Theatre, Helsinki, 2000

MEDEA (P. Dusapin: Medea)

Opera Lille France; Sasha Waltz co., cond. Marcus Creed, November 2009

performances in Orléans, Saint-Quentin Paris, Bourges, Porto, January 2007

cond. Alejo Perez, Teatro San Martin, Buenos Aires, 2005

Teatro Comunale di Bologna, 2017

MUSICIAN (K. Holmström: The Lunatic Express)

Finnish National Opera 1995

NIGHTINGALE (I. Stravinsky: Nightingale)

Tampere Concert Hall with Tampere Symphony Orchestra 2005

OSCAR (G. Verdi: Masked Ball)

Sibelius-Academy Opera Studio, Helsinki 1998

PAMINA (Mozart: Magic Flute)

Kokkola West Coast Opera, July 2011, cond. Sakari Oramo

PAIX (M. A. Charpentier: Les Arts Florissant)

Turku Music Festival in Turku Castle, Finland 1995 & 1996

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT (W.A. Mozart: The Magic Flute)

Opera Cava Festival, Finland 2004

Pori Opera, Finland 2002

Sibelius-Academy Opera Studio, Helsinki 1997

ROSINA (G. Rossini: The Barber of Seville)

Finnish Chamber Opera, Aleksander Theatre, Helsinki 2004

THE CAT (U. Chin: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland)

München, World Premiere, 31.6.2007

MAIDEN OF THE RAINBOW (T. Tuomela: Mothers And Daughters)

Finnish National Opera, Helsinki 2002 & 1999

VENUS / GEPOPO (György Ligeti: Le Grand Macabre)

Theater Chemnitz, Opern Haus, dir. Frank Beermann, 2013-2014

WITCH / SECOND WOMAN (Henry Purcell: Dido & Aenas)

Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival 2014

WOMAN (L. Wennäkoski: N & R. Schumann: Frauenliebe Und Leben)

Dramatization from 2 song cycles, Aleksander Theatre, Helsinki 2003 (televised)