

Piia Komsi, Soprano Coloratura, CV 2022

Summary

“Piia 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 (2016)

“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 (2016).

Finnish soprano coloratura Piia Komsi (b. 1967) is an internationally acclaimed performer with an exceptionally large repertoire from early music to the newest contemporary works. Komsi is known for her unique virtuoso, voice acrobatic and various special skills; including singing and playing the cello simultaneously, as she started her musical career as a cellist. Komsi has worked with many composers around the world like Pascal Dusapin, György Kurtag and Liza Lim. She has premiered numerous works by contemporary composers, and many composers (including Vinko Globokar, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Kaija Saariaho, Unsuk Chin, Peter Eötvös, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Rolf Riehm, Liza Lim and Heinz-Juhani Hofmann) have written music particularly for her voice.

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, BBC Symphony Orchestras of London and Cardiff, NDR Symphony Orchestra Hamburg, Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra (MDR), Oslo Philharmonic, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Musik Fabrik Köln, Ensemble Modern, Remix Porto Casa da Musica, Stockholm Royal Filharmonic Orchestra and Finnish Radio Orchestra.

Piia Komsi’s many successful roles such as Medea (Dusapin/Medea), Gepopo (Ligeti/Grand Macabre), Maid (Adès/Powder her Face), Cat (Unsuk Chin’s Alice in Wonderland), Queen of the Night and Brünnhilde (Wagner-Dove/Ring Saga) have taken her around the world. Komsi’s opera engagements include Bayerisches Staatsoper, Théâtre et Musique Paris, Théâtre Capitole Toulouse, Teatro Comunale Bologna, Teatro Colón Buenos Aires, Theater Chemnitz, Finnish National Opera, as well as many independent opera companies in Finland and Nimrod company productions.

Piia Komsi’s latest recordings include “Soita.Kirjoita joskus.Ruf an.Schreib doch mal.” by Heinz-Juhani Hofmann (2021), Liza Lim’s Singing in Tongues (2021), Exil3 by Vinko Globokar(NEOS) and Die Schreckliche gewaltige Kinder by Rolf Riehm (WERGO), and SOLARIS (Naxos).

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

In 2022, Piia Komsi has again been nominated for the Opus Klassik Award for the recording of Heinz-Juhani Hofmann’s “*Soita. Kirjoita joskus. Ruf an. Schreib doch mal.*” in multiple categories:

Category 1: Female Singer of the Year 2022

Category 9: Solo Recording Singing

Category 13 Classic without limits

Category 17: World Premiere Recording

Category 22: Innovative listening experience

Category 24: New Classic

The recording of *Mother Tongue* by Liza Lim (in the CD *Singing in Tongues*) was nominated as a candidate for the Best Recording of The Year by *New Yorker* 2021.

In 2019, Piia Komsu was nominated in two categories for the prestigious Opus Klassik 2019 Awards: The Best Female Singer of the Year, and Vocal Soloist in a live concert recording regarding the recording of the *Die Schreckliche gewaltige Kinder* by Rolf Riehm, with Ensemble Modern.

She was awarded the **Abbiati-prize of the Best Modern Opera Premiere** in Italy 2017 for *Medea* (*Medeamaterial* by Pascal Dusapin).

Piia Komsu is also Artistic Director of Exit 3-Company, a multi-art group of top professionals in music, dance and visual arts. In the following seasons 2022–2023, Piia Komsu will perform leading roles in two new world premieres:

- Paola Livorsi / Sara Orava: Opera-Dance work *Medusa* with her own multi-art company Exit 3, in which she is an artistic director and a producer. The premiere of *Medusa* will take place in August during the Helsinki Contemporary Opera Festival.

-Heinz-Juhani Hofmann: Opera *Hypatia Aleksandrian* (Espoo City Theatre)

Piia Komsu is currently working on a recording project of Anton Webern's songs and is an enthusiastic chamber & lied musician. In addition to her performing career, Komsu teaches young singers and studies Music Pedagogy and Education Sciences and Psychology at the University of Jyväskylä.

DISCOGRAPHY

-Liza Lim: *Singing in Tongues/Mother Tongue* (Elision ensemble, Huddersfields Contemporary Records) 2021, [Listen to "Singing in Tongues/Mother Tongue" on Spotify](#)

- Soita.Kirjoita joskus. Ruf an.Schreib doch mal (Works by Heinz-Juhani Hofmann/Fuga) 2021, [Listen to "Soita. Kirjoita joskus. Ruf an. Schreib doch mal." on Spotify](#)

-SOLARIS (Contemporary spiritual new music for soprano and string quartet/Naxos) 2012, [Listen to "Solaris" on Spotify](#)

-Wohin (Zoltán Jeney/Presto Classical)2018, [Listen to "Wohin" on Spotify](#)

-Die Schrecklich- Gewaltigen Kinder (Rolf Riehm/WERGO /ensemble modern) 2019, [Listen to the album on Spotify](#)

-Exile 3 (Vinko Globokar/ Bayerische Radio Symfonie Orchester, Eötvös, Bruno Ganz), [Listen to "Exile 3" on Spotify](#)

-Ahti Karjalainen - Elämä, Kekkonen ja teot (Heinz-Juhani Hofmann/Alba, 2016 Emma -Award nominated), [Listen to "Elämä, Kekkonen ja teot" on Spotify](#)

-Wing on Wing (Esa-Pekka Salonen/DG) 2005, [Listen to "Wing on Wing" on Spotify](#)

-Akrostichon Wortspiel (Unsuk Chin/Deutsche Grammophon DG,L'Ensemble Intercontemporain) 2004

-From the Grammar of dreams (Kaija Saariaho/Ondine, Record of the Year -award), 2001, [Listen to "Grammar of Dreams" on Spotify](#)

-Procris (Lotta Wennäkoski/Gamba Nova/Alba, 2009 Emma -award) 2008, [Listen to "Procris" on Spotify](#)

-Mothers and Daughters opera (Tapio Tuomela/AULoS), 2007,
[Listen to "Mothers and Daughters" on Spotify](#)

-Alice in Wonderland -opera, DVD, (Unsuik Chin/ Kent Nagano/Bayerische Staatsoper, 2007,
[Listen to "Alice in Wonderland" on Spotify](#)

MORE INFORMATION:

Website: piiakomsi.com

LinkedIn: [Piia Koms](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Instagram: [@piiakomsi](#)

Twitter: [@PiiaKoms](#)

Facebook: [Piia Koms Soprano Coloratura](#)

Youtube [Piia Koms videos](#):

[Heitor Villa-Lobos: Bachianas Brasileiras nr 5](#)

[Wagner-Dove: Ring Saga/Götterdämmerung, Festival Musica, 2011 Strasbourg/ARTE Direct-live,](#)

From the recording session of the new album: [Soita.Kirjoita joskus. Ruf an. Schreib doch mal. Heinz-Juhani Hofmann: Ich sah wie ein Mann einen andren schlug](#)

EDUCATION

Degrees:

- Master of Music/Art- Degree, Sibelius-Academy/Opera Department/University of Arts Helsinki, Voice, 2002 (Voice studies 1997–2002), Voice diploma (A), opera class studies at the Opera department of Sibelius-Academy, 1997-2002, Master's degree, teacher Principal Lecturer of Voice Mrs. Marjut Hannula,

Voice studies at the Yale University Music School with Prof. Lily Chookasian, 1989-1990

Master classes voice: Renata Scotto, Kurt Equiluz, Neil Mackie, Jane Manning, Irina Gavrilovici

- Bachelor of Adult Education Science, Jyväskylä University/Education Science and Psychology Department, 2021, Thesis: The Development and conceptualization of young musician's self-esteem

Current studies:

- Adult Education Science/Education and Psychology Department/Master's Program, Jyväskylä University, (2019–2024)
- Music Pedagogy/Voice, Jyväskylä Vocational Institute (JAMK), 2021

Cello studies (at adult level):

- Cello and voice studies, at Yale University Music School (USA), with Prof. Aldo Parisot (cello) and Prof. Lily Chookasian (voice), +chamber music, orchestra, opera choir, music History, 1989–1990
- Cello diploma(A), Sibelius-Academy, teacher Prof. Arto Noras, 1988
- Cello and chamber music studies (bachelor program) Edsbergs Music institute, with Frans Helmerson , 1986–1987
- Master classes cello: Paul Tortelier, Janos Starker, William Pleeth, Raphael Sommer, Gary Hoffman, Steven Isserlis

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Finnish (native)
 English: High level
 Swedish: High level
 German: mediocre
 French: mediocre/good
 Italian: mediocre
 Russian: basic level

Singing languages: Finnish, Swedish, English, German, French, Italian, Latin, Spanish, Russian, Hungarian, Serbokroatian, Slovenian, Japanese, Chinese, Aramean, Norwegian, Danish, Ancient Greek

PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIENCE / VOICE:

- Master Class teaching advanced singers at Joutseno Taidekesä Classical Singing courses, 24.7.-31.7.2021, seven students in 7 days, all repertoire from early music to contemporary music
- Voice teacher at the Pedagogical Trainee Program, Music Institute of Jyväskylä Applied Sciences School (Music Pedagogy Program), 2021-2022
- Voice Lecturer in Classical Singing, Centria University of Applied Sciences (Kokkola), September 2017- December 2018
- Private Teaching:
 Annabella Qi Yangyang in Helsinki, 2018-
 Anja Voipio in Helsinki, 2018-2019
- Master Class for singers and conductors, at the Sibelius-Academy/University of Arts, Conductors's class-Orchestra department, 2016
- Master Class workshop for singers and composers, at the Sibelius-Academy/University of Arts, 2013

- Private teaching: Michelangelo Chiodo, 2011-2012
- Private teaching: Erik Rousi, 2012-2013
- Jury member for the Voice Exams, West-Helsinki Music Institute 2011-2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: Cello

2016–2019, Jury member at several course exams of Cello department of the Sibelius- Academy/University of Arts

1988–1989 Teacher for cello playing, students age between 5-13 years old, West-Helsinki Music Institute

1988–1989 Teacher for cello playing, students age between 5-13 years, North-Helsinki Music Institute, 1988-1989

OPERA ENGAGEMENTS

2021 - Exit 3-Company, Paola Livorsi: Medusa (Opera Summer Festival of Helsinki 2022)

2017, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Pascal 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

2012, West Coast Kokkola Opera; Heinz-Juhani Hofmann: Ahti Karjalainen / Kraut (world premiere)

2011, Théâtre et Musique, Paris, Wagner: Ring cycle / Brünnhilde ,

2011, West Coast Kokkola Opera, Mozart: Magic Flute / Pamina

2012 Wagner: Ring cycle / Brünnhilde 2, Théâtre et Musique, Paris

2010, Opera Lille Dusapin: Medea

2009, 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, Finnish National Opera, Heiniö: Time Of Serpent / Ida (world premiere)

2005–2007, Theatre e Musique Paris, Dusapin: Medea

2000, Finnish National Opera, Adams: The Death Of Klinghoffer / Dancing girl

2003, Finnish National Opera, Linjama: The Finnish Tapir / Chicken (world premiere)

2006, Finnish Radio Orchestra, YLE TV-broadcast, Mozart: Der Schauspieldirektor / Mademoiselle Silberklang

2004, Opera Cava, Nilsjö, Mozart: Magic Flute / The Queen of The Night
2003, Taite-group, Helsinki, Wennäkoski-Schumann: Frauenliebe und Leben (world premiere)
2002, San Carlo Opera, Napoli, Teatro Politeama, Adès: Powder Her Face / Maid
2001–2002, Finnish National Opera, Tuomela: Mothers and Daughters / Maiden (world premiere)
2001, Tel Aviv Opera/Nimrod, Chicago Modern Art Museum, Theatre, Zagreb, Rome, Teatro Olimpico, Adès: Powder Her Face / Maid
2002, Pori Opera, W.A. Mozart: Magic Flute / The Queen of The Night
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 Opera, M.A. Charpentier: Les Arts Florissants / Paix 1987–1989
1988, Avanti! -Festival Opera, Mozart: Der Schauspieldirektor / Mademoiselle Silberklang
1988, Avanti! Festival- Opera, Vakkilainen: Beer Opera (Olutooppera-Lätäkkö) / Huna (world premiere)

ORCHESTRAS

As a Soprano Soloist with Orchestras:

New York Philharmonic Orchestra,
Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra,
BBC Symphony London
L'Ensemble Intercontemporain,
BBC Symphony Orchestra Wales/Cardiff,
London Sinfonietta,
Bayerischer Rundfunk Symphony Orchestra, BRSO,
Orchestre Philharmonie de Radio France,
Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra Ljubljana
NDR Hamburg,
MDR Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, Gewandhaus
Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra,
Stockholm Royal Philharmonie,
Gulbenkian Symphony Orchestra,
Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música,
Remix Casa da Musica,

Gothenburg Symphony,
Seoul Symphony orchestra,
Eesti State Symphony Orchestra ERSO,
Köln Musik Fabrik,
Frankfurt Ensemble Moderne,
Nieuw Ensemble Amsterdam,
Elision Ensemble Brisbane/Melbourne,
Tallinn Barock Orchestra,
Barock Orchestra St.Petersburg,
Nordic Symphony Orchestra Estonia,
Stockholm Kammerensemble,
Musik Werkstatt Wien,
Israeli 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, 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, St.Michel Strings, Sysmä Festival Orchestra, Kuhmo Festival Orchestra,

Conductors worked with: Esa-Pekka Salonen, Mikko Franck, Francois-Xavier Roth, Kent Nagano, Peter Eötvös, Sakari Oramo, Alan Gilbert, Jean Deroyer, Kazushi Ono, George Benjamin, Susanna Mälkki, Frank Olly, Peter Rundel, Emilio Pomarico, Baldur Rönniman, Hannu Lintu, John Storgårds, Santtu-Matias Rouvali, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Stefan Asbury, Dima Slobodeniuk, Eva Ollikainen, Jonathan Nott, Dalia Stasevska, Andres Mustonen, Aapo Häkkinen, Walter Kobera, Fabian Panisello, Vittorio Parisi, Berislav Šipus, Anu Tali, Frank Beermann, Hermann Bäumer, among others.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS:

Artistic Director and producer/manager of multi-art group EXIT 3-Company, Helsinki, (Contemporary music/opera-dance-visual arts), from 2018 -

ENGAGEMENTS AS A CELLIST:

1989–2001, Tenured cellist (tutti player) at the Finnish National Opera Orchestra

1991, Cello soloist (Haydn: C-major Concerto) with St. Michel Orchestra

1986, Cello soloist (E.Elgar: Concerto for Cello) with Finnish Radio Orchestra

1990–1991, Solo and Chamber music, at the Festival de Chambre Musique- Rencontrer- Saint Nazaire

1990, Cello Debut Recital in Helsinki, Astoria-Hall

1982–1997, several chamber music and cello continuo concerts

1986–2000, Cellist in the Avanti! -contemporary music -orchestra