

## CV Piia Koms, Soprano Coloratura

### Summary

“Piia Koms’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 Koms passed it superbly, meeting every challenge with real operatic brilliance.” -Andrew Clements, Guardian (2016).

Finnish soprano coloratura Piia Koms (b. 1967) is an internationally acclaimed performer with an exceptionally large repertoire from early music to the newest contemporary works. Koms 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. Koms 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.

Koms 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 Koms’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. Koms’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 Koms’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). Koms has also been composing and arranging music, as well as performing as a singer, cellist and actor in the new play by Juha Hurme at the Helsinki City Theatre during the season 2022-2023.

## AWARDS & NOMINATIONS:

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

Nominated for the **Opus Klassik Award (2022)** in multiple categories for the recording of Heinz-Juhani Hofmann's "*Soita. Kirjoita joskus. Ruf an. Schreib doch mal.*":

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

Nominated for **Best Recording of The Year 2021 by the New Yorker** for the recording of *Mother Tongue* by Liza Lim (in the CD *Singing in Tongues*)

Nominated for the **Opus Klassik Awards (2019)** in two categories: "Best Female Singer of the Year", and "Vocal Soloist in a Live Concert Recording" for the recording of the *Die Schreckliche gewaltige Kinder* by Rolf Riehm, with Ensemble Modern.

## MANAGEMENT SKILLS:

Piia Komsí is the **Artistic Director of the Exit 3-Company**, a multi-art group of top professionals in music, dance and visual arts. In 2022, Komsí performed leading roles as a singer and singer-cellist, while also taking on the role of producer for the multi-art opera *Medusa* by **Paola Livorsi**.

## FUTURE PROJECTS:

- Recording project of Monteverdi (includes Arianna's recitativo and lament scene of the opera Arianna) and improvisation with a jazz double bass player.
- New world premiere by Kimmo Hakola, piece for soprano-cellist, premiere on the 19th of November at Lux Musicae Festival
- New commission from Antti Auvinen: Nature tales for high soprano and ensemble (Avanti! Orchestra)
- Heinz-Juhani Hofmann: Opera Hypatia Aleksandrian

Piia Komsí is also working on a recording project of Anton Webern's vocal works and is an enthusiastic chamber & lied musician. Alongside her performing career, Komsí studies Music Pedagogy, Education Sciences, Psychology, as well as Administrative Sciences and Management. As an experienced voice teacher, Komsí has worked with many young singers.

**For a comprehensive list of Piia Komsí's repertoire, please refer to her official website: [piiakomsi.com](http://piiakomsi.com)**

## 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: average/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:

- Vocal Professor (Visiting) of the Joint Professional Doctoral Study Programme in Arts of Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music, 2023
- 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

- 2023, **Ilmajoki Music Festival**, Eeva Kontu: *Armi-opera* / Vuokko Nurmesniemi
- 2022-2023, **Helsinki City Theatre**, Juha Hurme: *Asmodeus and 1313 Souls* / Musician
- 2012-2022, **Opera Summer Festival of Helsinki**, Paola Livorsi: *Medusa*, Exit 3-Company
- 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)

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

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

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

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, **Théâtre 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, Nilsjä**, 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, 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, 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

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

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Website: [piiakomsi.com](http://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](#)