

Caroline Melzer, Soprano

Biography

Caroline Melzer: brilliant.

Der Standard

Caroline Melzer dazzles with her “clear, broad, and bright soprano” (Eleonore Büning FAZ) and her unusually wide repertoire, ranging from big lyrical and jugendlich-dramatic roles to Operetta divas and contemporary works written specifically for her. She studied singing with Rudolf Piernay and Vera Scherr and song interpretation with Ulrich Eisenlohr and Irwin Gage.

Her first permanent engagement took the expressive singer to the Komische Oper Berlin in 2007, where she sang numerous roles such as Contessa, Fiordiligi, Mimì, Giulietta (*Tales of Hoffmann*), Lisa (*Queen of Spades*), Lisa (*The Land of Smiles*), Leonore in the first version of *Fidelio*, and Cordelia in Aribert Reimann's *Lear* in the highly acclaimed new production by Hans Neuenfels. From 2010 until 2017, she was a permanent ensemble member at the Vienna Volksoper, where she sang the title roles in *Rusalka* and *The Bartered Bride* and *Gräfin Mariza*, as well as Donna Elvira, Micaela, Liù, and Sieglinde in *Ring in one evening* (arrangement by Loriot). In addition to her permanent engagements, Caroline Melzer made guest appearances as the First Lady at the Staatsoper Berlin and as the Merry Widow at the Festival Savonlinna, Finland, and in Tokyo in 2016, as well as at the Neue Oper Wien and at Müpa Budapest as Angel in Péter Eötvös' *Angels in America*, and as the Armed Woman in the world premiere production of Felix Leuschner's *Einbruch mehrerer Dunkelheiten* at Staatstheater Kassel. In 2022, she was a guest at the Munich Chamber Orchestra with works by Schönberg and Zemlinsky. She also returned to the Ruhrtriennale after the successful world premiere of Michael Wertmüller's *D • I • E* in 2021 with the production *Ich geh unter lauter Schatten* in 2022. This was followed by her role debuts in Freiburg as Agathe in *Der Freischütz*, Marie in *Wozzeck*, as Fremde Fürstin in *Rusalka*, and as Elisabetta in *Don Carlos*. In 2024/25, she will give her house debut at the State Opera Stuttgart in Florentina Holzinger's production *Sancta* that is based on Hindemith's *Sancta Susanna*. Caroline Melzer will also sing in chamber concerts at the Kronberg Festival and in Geneva.

Contemporary music is a particular focus of her work. Of great importance are her collaborations with Aribert Reimann, who set the song cycle *Rilke-Fragmente* and the scene of Stella (Goethe) to music for her, with Manfred Trojahn (*Zwetajewa* and *Nietzsche Lieder*), as well as with Wolfgang Rihm on the occasion of the world premiere of the *Zwetajewa Lieder* and most recently the *Nossack Lieder* at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg. In addition, she has given many other world premieres of works by Emanuele Casale, Seán Doherty, Deidre Gribbin, Stefan Heucke, Bernhard Lang, Jüri Reinvere, Vladimir Tarnopolski, Steffen Schleiermacher, and Kate Whitley. She also works regularly with pianist Axel Bauni, and ensembles such as Ensemble Modern, Klangforum Wien, musikFabrik, and Ensemble Intercontemporain. She passionately devotes herself to the vocal works of György Kurtág: in addition to the *Kafka Fragments*, which she performs together with the violinist Nurit Stark (the CD of which, released on the BIS label in 2015, has been awarded the German Record Critics' Prize), she has performed many of the composer's chamber music works with voice.

In the course of her activities as a lied and concert singer, Caroline Melzer has appeared in renowned halls such as the Suntory Hall Tokyo, the Philharmonie Berlin, the Konzerthaus Berlin, the Wiener Konzerthaus, the Musikverein Vienna, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Concert Hall Tongyeong, the Auditorium Grafenegg, the Kunstzentrum deSingel Antwerpen, the Cité de la Musique Paris, the Kölner Philharmonie, the Tonhalle Zürich, the Philharmonie Essen, the Konzerthaus Dortmund, deDoelen Rotterdam, Tchaikovsky Conservatory Moscow, the Town Hall Birmingham, and the Liederhalle Stuttgart. The complete recording of the Schumann Lieder was completed on the Naxos label in April 2022, on which she is featured on two CDs. Caroline Melzer has worked with conductors such as Frieder Bernius, André de Ridder, Péter Eötvös, Titus Engel, Alfred Eschwé, Konrad Junghänel, Patrick Lange, Friedemann Layer, Christoph Poppen, Helmuth Rilling, François-Xavier Roth, Peter Rundel, Michael Sanderling, Stefan Soltesz und Jac van Steen.

Caroline Melzer teaches voice at the University of Music and Performing Arts Mannheim and at the Zurich University of the Arts.

Season 2024/25

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