

Marie Heeschen, Soprano

Biography

Unflaggingly vibrant. The Guardian

Marie Heeschen mesmerises audiences with a lush and flowing voice that is highly adaptable. Since 2016 she has been an ensemble member at the Theater Bonn, where she brings a playful and natural stage presence to roles such as Atalanta (*Xerxes*), Poppea (*Agrippina*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Marzelline (*Fidelio*), Clorinde (*La Cenerentola*) and Maria (*West Side Story*). Additional parts include the vocally agile role of Tussy in Jonathan Dove's critically acclaimed opera, *Marx in London*. Following her debut as Gilda (*Rigoletto*) at Opera Hedeland in the summer of 2021, she recently stepped in in this role at Theater Klagenfurt. In the 2022/23 season, Marie Heeschen will also appear on stage as Oscar (*Un ballo di maschera*) and as Valencienne (*The Merry Widow*).

In addition to regular appearances in operas, the versatile singer is also active across other genres of classical music. With Paper Kite, her chamber music ensemble consisting of two violins and basso continuo, she revives the lesser-known cantata repertoire of the German and Italian baroque. The ensemble, sought-after for its chamber music spirit and finely balanced sound, was awarded the Biagio Marini Prize in 2013 and has since released two CDs on Coviello Classics: the album *felice un tempo* comprises a world premiere recording by Giovanni Le Grenzi as well as sonatas and cantatas by Giovanni Bononcini and Domenico Scarlatti, and *Abend-Andacht* features works from the period of the Thirty Years' War.

This inquisitive and open-minded singer is also a committed interpreter of contemporary music. In 2013 she founded the ensemble BRuCH with Sally Beck (flute), Ella Rohwer (cello), and Claudia Chan (piano), which focuses on interpreting impressionist works in combination with 20th- and 21st-century music. They have collaborated with composers such as Helmut Lachenmann, Gordon Kampe, and Johannes Schöllhorn. Distinct in its unusual lineup, the quartet won second prize at the Karlsruher Competition for the Performance of Contemporary Music in 2014. They regularly develop new works with young composers including Ricardo Eizirik, Giovanni Biswas, Matthias Krüger, and Julien Jamet. In May 2019, the ensemble gave the world premiere of Jonah Haven's chamber opera *I cannot know your name* in Cologne. Since last season, the ensemble has presented its own concert series "BRuCH + XX" in Cologne. In the autumn of 2022, the group appears at the Festival NOW! in Essen, Germany, premiering a new work by Lukas Ligeti together with the band Burkina Electric, led by the composer, before performing in Canada in the spring of 2023.

As a soloist, Marie Heeschen has performed at the Handel Festival Halle, Oude Muziek Fest Utrecht, Acht Brücken Festival in Cologne, MAFestival in Bruges, and Konserthuset Kristiansand. Highlights of the last season include her debut at Musikverein Wien together with Bach Consort Wien, concerts with RIAS Kammerchor, performing Bach's *Johannespassion* under Christoph Prégardien, and the world premiere of Samuel Penderbayne's *Unsex Me Here* after Shakespeare's Macbeth in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg together with Ensemble Resonanz.

Marie Heeschen trained with Christoph Prégardien and Lioba Braun in Cologne. She studied contemporary and chamber music in Essen with David Smeyers and Barbara Maurer, among others. Master classes and lessons with Klesie Kelly-Moog, Ruth Ziesak, Martin Kränzle, and Jil Feldman completed her education.

Season 2021/22

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