

Julia Sporsén

Soprano



“Julia Sporsén was a terrific Nedda, feisty, fiery, vocally secure and dramatically impressive.”

Hugo Shirley, Opera

Swedish soprano **Julia Sporsén** is known for the intensity with which she portrays her characters. Her performances have been described as “fiery” (Opera Magazine), “searing” (The Sunday Times), and “almost unbearably moving” (The Spectator), and she is praised for her virtuosic and expressive singing as well as her stage presence and captivating acting skills.

In 2009 Julia made her debut at English National Opera singing **Jano Jenufa**. She then became a Harewood Artist with the company, where other roles have included **Katya** in Weinberg's *The Passenger*, **Livia** in Glanert's *Caligula*, **Rosalinde** *Die Fledermaus*, and the title role in Martinu's **Julietta**. She has also created two roles in world premieres: **Julia** in Torsten Rasch's *The Duchess of Malfi* and **Antigone** in Julian Anderson's *The Thebans*. The directors she has worked with there include David Pountney, Christopher Alden, Richard Jones and Pierre Audi.

In 2012 she made her debut at the Royal Swedish Opera singing **Micaëla** *Carmen*. Appearances in her native Sweden also include **Violetta** *La Traviata* for Folksoperan in Stockholm as well as the roles of **Kumudha** in John Adams's *A Flowering Tree*, **Micaëla**, **Pamina** *Die Zauberflöte* and **Elsalill** in Gösta Nyström's *Herr Arne Penningar*, at Göteborg Opera.


Julia enjoys a close relationship with Opera Holland Park, where roles have included the title role of **Kat'a Kabanova**, **Micaëla**, **Gilda Rigoletto** and **Nedda Pagliacci** for Opera Holland Park, all to critical acclaim. Notable appearances elsewhere include **Tebaldo** *Don Carlos* for Opera North in a production that has been recorded for Chandos Records, and **Donna Anna** *Don Giovanni* and **Regan** in the world premiere of *Promised End* by Alexander Goehr for English Touring Opera.

Other roles include **Vitellia** *La clemenza di Tito*, **Donna Elvira** *Don Giovanni*, **Mimi** *La bohème*, **Arminda** *La Finta Giardiniera*, **Armida** *Rinaldo*, **Adina** *L'Elisir d'Amore*, **Iphise** in Rameau's *Dardanus* with Laurence Cummings, and the title role in Tchaikovsky's **Iolanta** with Stuart Bedford.

Notable concert engagements include appearances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, London Mozart Players, Göteborg Symfoniker and Göteborg Wind Orchestra. She has given recitals at London's Wigmore Hall and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden with Joseph Middleton and has also toured with a one-woman show “Dreamlives” for the Liederkreis company: a staged performance of lieder by R. Strauss, Berg and Schönberg, with performances around the United Kingdom including the Leeds Lieder Festival.

Julia has worked with conductors including Sir Colin Davis, Joana Carneiro, Edward Gardner, Karen Kamensek, Sian Edwards, Mark Wigglesworth, Stuart Stratford and Santtu-Matias Rouvali.

The daughter of two opera singers, Julia read drama at Gothenburg University, followed by three years at the Operastudio67 in Stockholm. She studied privately with Susanna Rigacci in Florence, followed by postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London with Joy Mammen and Iain Ledingham, where she graduated with the highest award, DipRAM. She has since been elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM). She was also the winner of the Opera Rara Patric Schmidt Bel Canto Prize and the Flora Nielsen Song Prize.

Recent and upcoming engagements include **Komponist** *Ariadne auf Naxos* for Scottish Opera as well as Opera Holland Park, and **Ingeborg** in Elfrida Andrés opera *Fritiofs saga* at Gothenburg Opera. Future performances also include further returns to Scottish Opera, Gothenburg Opera and Opera Holland Park. 

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