

# Soile Isokoski

Soprano



**“First of all, there was the voice itself, a pure, rich stream of golden, russet timbre perfectly suited to the music's autumnal mood. And then there was Isokoski's wondrous way of communicating the songs' valedictory emotional sensibility, through clear diction but also through the fact that she seemed not merely to be singing the songs but living them out.”**

*Daily Telegraph*

Soile Isokoski's name originally means 'the northern light' – a light that she carries to the world today in an exceptional way. One of the most celebrated sopranos to emerge from Finland, Isokoski studied at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and made her stage debut with Finnish National Opera. She has gone on to capture audiences and critics alike across the world, winning the coveted Pro-Finlandia medal in 2002 in honour of her notable contribution to Finnish music.

A regular guest of the most renowned opera houses, Isokoski is also a familiar face on the world's most prestigious concert stages, working with conductors including Philippe Herreweghe, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Seiji Ozawa, John Elliot Gardiner, Sir Colin Davis, Zubin Mehta, Daniel Barenboim, Sir Simon Rattle, Marek Janowski, Bernhard Haitink, Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Muti, Valerie Gergiev, Pierre Boulez, James Levine, Leif Segerstam and Michael Tilson Thomas.

Isokoski's acclaimed discography includes Strauss' *Four Last Songs* under Marek Janowski (*Gramophone* Editor's Choice Award 2002), as well as two Sibelius CDs under the baton of Leif Segerstam: *Kullervo* with Tommi Hakala (Diapason d'Or 2008) and *Luonnotar* and Orchestral songs (MIDEM classical award, *BBC Music Magazine* Vocal Award and Disc of the Year 2007). She was awarded the Sibelius Medal in 2007 and was honoured with the title of Austrian *Kammersängerin* in 2008. In 2011 she received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Helsinki. Her signature roles include Marschallin *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Elsa Lohengrin*, Rachel *La Juive*, *Marguerite Faust* and *Contessa Le nozze di Figaro*.

Isokoski has performed the title role of *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Glyndebourne Festival Opera), Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni* (LA Opera), Marschallin *Der Rosenkavalier* (in London, Geneva, Vienna, Paris and Munich), Blanche de la Force *Dialogues des Carmélites* (Bayerische Staatsoper), Desdemona *Otello* (Deutsche Oper Berlin and Wiener Staatsoper), *Marguerite Faust* in Vienna, Ellen Orford *Peter Grimes* in Dresden, and *Elsa Lohengrin* in Los Angeles and Dresden. On the concert platform, performances include the closing scene from *Capriccio* with the LSO, and Strauss's *Four Last Songs* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Vladimir Jurowski and a recital at London's Wigmore Hall.

Isokoski teaches singing at the Oulu University of Applied Sciences and she is a guest professor at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki. She has served as a jury member for BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition and Mirjam Helin-International Singing Competition.

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[info@rayfieldallied.com](mailto:info@rayfieldallied.com)