

Julia Sporsén

Soprano



“Julia Sporsén has a thrillingly powerful voice – a core of steel wrapped in a casing of velvet.”
Warwick Thompson, Metro

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. She is the 2023 winner of the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet's Opera Prize for her bold portrayal in the title role of **Norma** at Folkoperan Stockholm. She performed Berlioz's 'Le spectre de la rose' and Lehar's 'Meine lippen, sie küssen so heiss' at the 2023 Nobel Prize Ceremony in Stockholm.

In 2009 Julia made her debut at English National Opera, soon becoming an ENO Harewood Artist. Her many roles with the company 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. Julia also 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**, all to critical acclaim.

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.

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. In 2021/22, she took up the position of Artist in Residence at Kulturhuset Spira in Jönköping.

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 highlights include a return to Scottish Opera as **Pat Nixon** *Nixon in China*, **Elsalill** in *Herr Arne Penningar* at Göteborg Opera, **Ingeborg** in Elfrida Andrés opera *Fritiofs saga*, and **Waltraute** in *Die Walküre* at Gothenburg Opera, and a return to Folkoparen in Stockholm for **Isolde** *Tristan and Isolde*.

Last season, Julia returned to Folkoperan Stockholm to sing the title role in **Norma** and **Judith** *Bluebeard's Castle*. This season she sings the role of **Paulina Salas** *Death and the Maiden* at Malmö Opera and sings Verdi *Requiem* with the Jönköping Sinfonietta, a new work by Maria Lithell Flyg at the Västerås Konserthus, performances with RUSK Chamber Music at Schumann Hall in Finland, and a programme of Rangström, Stenhammar and Sibelius with the BBC Concert Orchestra.

Valid for use until 1 September 2024
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