

Juliana Zara

Soprano



(C) MARYNA RUDENOK

“The brilliant... Juliana Zara, whose soprano sounds glassy clear, high, pure and at the same time completely unstrained, plays a terrifically noncommittal Lulu who is nevertheless devoted, in that uniquely Lulu-like way. So unbelievably youthful, fit and without exaltation, she conquers the role and she does so until the end, without any tiredness that so often characterizes the role.”

Opernwelt Magazine

After the riotous critical success of her role debut as **Lulu**, the “grandiose soprano” (FAZ) was nominated for the prestigious German Theater Prize **Der Faust** and featured on the cover of the May 2023 edition of *Opernwelt Magazine*. She was also **Opus Klassik’s Singer of the Year** for her interpretation of Bubikopf in her recording of *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*.

On the opera stage this season she sings **Najade Ariadne auf Naxos** for Opernhaus Zürich directed by Andreas Homoki, makes her role debut as **Zerbinetta Ariadne auf Naxos** on tour with the Nederlandse Reisopera, and **Shoko** in a new production of Thomas Larcher’s *Das Jagdgewehr* at the Bayerische Staatsoper (Cuvillies Theater) directed by Ulrike Schwab. She also returns to Staatstheater Darmstadt to sing **Adina/L’elisir d’amore**. In concert she performs a world premiere with the Copenhagen Philharmonic by Matias Vestergård titled *Melodrama*; a musical collaboration between director Christian Lollike and the internationally renowned German video scenographer, Astrid Steiner and conducted by the orchestra’s music director Christoph Gedschold and gives a recital with pianist Marlene Heiss at the Berlin Philharmonie.

Her recent role debuts have included **Olympia** in *Les contes d’Hoffmann* and **Morgana** in *Alcina* for Staatstheater Darmstadt where she was a member of the ensemble (2021–2024). Other recent operatic highlights include her role debut as **Najade** in Robert Carsen’s production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* for the opening of the Hong Kong Arts Festival with the Bayerische Staatsoper, her role and house debut at Nationaltheater Mannheim with **Belinda** in *Dido and Aeneas*, and the **Cheshire Cat** in concert version of Unsuk Chin’s *Alice in Wonderland* at Concertgebouw Amsterdam under the baton of Markus Stenz as part of the prestigious Saturday Matinee series. Last season she made her North American debut at Carnegie Hall (Zankel) singing Unsuk Chin’s *Puzzles and Games* for soprano and orchestra with the Sejong Soloists under Earl Lee.

An enthusiastic interpreter of 20th/21st century repertoire other recent contemporary highlights have included her role debut as **Tinkerbelle** in a world-premiere of *Peter Pan* by Frank Schwemmer with the Luxembourg Philharmonic, György Ligeti’s *Mysteries of the Macabre* and *Nouvelles Aventures* with Patrick Hahn conducting the Wuppertal Symphony Orchestra, the world premiere of *Transstimme*, a full-length opera for only one singer and one actor, by Fabià Santcovsky at the invitation of the Munich Biennale as well as the world premiere of *Singularity* by Miroslav Srnka at the Cuvillies-Theater/Bayerische Staatsoper with the Klangforum Wien. She also covered the **title role** in the world premiere of *Girl with the Pearl Earring* at **Opernhaus Zürich**.

In spring 2023, the Opercussion ensemble of the Bayerische Staatsorchester released their award nominated debut album *Original Grooves* on which Juliana sang their ultimate track “Gracias a la vida.” The recording of *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* (BR Klassik) was nominated by **Opus Klassik for Best Opera Recording** featuring Juliana Zara, and conductor Patrick Hahn leading the Munich Radio Orchestra.

From 2019–2021, Juliana was a member of the Opernstudio at the Bayerische Staatsoper and sang roles such as **Frasquita** (Carmen), **Philine** (Mignon) and **Mercedes** (Schön ist die Welt) as well as Luciano Berio’s *Sequenza III*. Her repertoire also includes **Ophelia** (Hamlet), **Blonde** (Entführung aus dem Serail), **Zerlina** (Don Giovanni), **Norina** (Don Pasquale), **Isotta** (Die Schweigsame Frau), **Fiakermilli** (Arabella), **Philippe** (Der Teufel von Loudun), **Adele** (Die Fledermaus), **Griet** (Girl with a Pearl Earring), **Cunegonde** (Candide), and **Chief of Gepopo** (Le Grand Macabre).

She is graduate of Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Hochschule für Musik “Hanns Eisler” in Berlin.

Valid for use until 1 December 2024
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