

Sophie Harmsen

Mezzo-Soprano



"Her noble mezzo-soprano timbre flows warmly and supplely... Her freedom and zest for expression is rarely matched by other soloists."
— *Hamburger Abendblatt*

Mezzo-soprano Sophie Harmsen has established an international reputation as a compelling interpreter of the great symphonic and sacred repertoire, with Beethoven and Mahler at the heart of her work, alongside Brahms, Dvořák, Mendelssohn and Wagner. Combining warmth and richness of tone with musical intelligence and an instinctive communicative presence, she is a regular guest with many of Europe's leading orchestras and conductors, while her longstanding affinity with Bach and the Baroque repertoire remains an equally important part of her artistic life.

Beethoven is a cornerstone of Sophie's repertoire, with the Ninth Symphony, *Missa Solemnis* and Mass in C featuring prominently throughout her career. Her symphonic repertoire also includes Mahler's Second and Third Symphonies and *Das Lied von der Erde*, Brahms' *Alto Rhapsody*, Dvořák's *Requiem* and Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*. At the heart of her work are longstanding artistic relationships with conductors including Philippe Herreweghe, René Jacobs and Frieder Bernius, alongside collaborations with Karina Canellakis, Teodor Currentzis, Iván Fischer, Daniel Harding, Pablo Heras-Casado, Kent Nagano, François-Xavier Roth and Markus Stenz.

Sophie is a regular guest with orchestras including the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, SWR Symphonieorchester, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Wiener Symphoniker, Helsinki Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France and NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester. Her deep affinity with Bach and the Baroque repertoire has led to regular collaborations with Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Freiburger Barockorchester, B'Rock Orchestra, Les Talens Lyriques and Kammerorchester Basel.

Recent highlights include Brahms' *Alto Rhapsody* with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and Karina Canellakis at the Concertgebouw, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with Philippe Herreweghe and the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées,

Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Maxim Emelyanychev, and Handel's *Acis, Galatea e Polifemo* with René Jacobs and the Kammerorchester Basel.

Forthcoming engagements include Mahler's Third Symphony with the Residentie Orkest, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the SWR Symphonieorchester and François-Xavier Roth, Dvořák's *Requiem* and Beethoven's Mass in C with the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra and Philippe Herreweghe, alongside further performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and *Missa Solemnis*.

Opera has also played an important role in Sophie's career. Recent appearances include the Composer in Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Teatro La Fenice and Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier* in Salzburg, with other engagements at houses including Teatro Real Madrid, Theater an der Wien and Opéra de Dijon. Forthcoming projects include Mistress Slender in Salieri's *Falstaff* with René Jacobs and B'Rock Orchestra, with performances at BOZAR, the Elbphilharmonie and Kölner Philharmonie.

Sophie's discography includes award-winning recordings of Bruckner's *Missa Solemnis* with the RIAS Kammerchor, which received a Diapason d'Or, and the complete recording of Bach's *Luther Kantaten* with Christoph Spering, awarded an ECHO Klassik.

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