

# Johanna Rusanen Soprano



Alste & Mödersheim

Johanna Rusanen was born into a family of musicians in Kuopio, Finland. Having received her Masters degree in Music at the Sibelius Academy under the guidance of the well known wagnerian soprano Anita Vätkki, Johanna completed her studies in Berlin and Vienna and was a member of the young artist program at Deutsche Oper Berlin for two years.

In the meanwhile Johanna Rusanen has evolved to one of the most interesting Finnish dramatic sopranos of her generation. Her incredible vocal flexibility and strong singing technique allow her to interpret heroines of the German, as well as the Italian or Finnish opera literature. She made her debut as **Venus** (*Tannhäuser*) at the Tampere Opera in March 2012, produced by stage director Vilppu Kiljunen. Soon after that she sang the lead role **Old Aliide** in the world premiere of *Purge* by the Estonian composer Jüri Reinvere, based on the bestselling novel of Sofi Oksanen. Her next role debut was **Turandot** at the Finnish National Opera in 2013, followed by another **Turandot** with Maestro Pinchas Steinberg at the Teatro Regio in Turin. In the following season she interpreted **Tosca** at the Savonlinna Opera Festival and **Leonora** (*La forza del destino*) at Tampere Opera as well as her first **Ortrud** in Wagner's *Lohengrin* at the Teatro Municipal in Sao Paulo. In spring 2016 Rusanen celebrated her debut as **Isolde** at the Finnish National Opera, the same opera house that will see her first **Brünnhilde** in 2019 under the baton of Esa-Pekka Salonen.



Her major roles also include **Tatjana** in *Eugen Onegin*, **Marie** in *Wozzeck*, **Amelia** in *Un ballo in maschera* and **Donna Elvira** in *Don Giovanni*. In recent years, Johanna Rusanen has won particular acclaim for her portrayals of strong women in Finnish operas, her best known performances being **Riitta** in *The Last Temptations* in Nivala (2009), **Anna** in Sallinen's *Ratsumies* at the Savonlinna Opera Festival (2005-2006) and **Aalo** in *The Wolf's Bride* by Pykkänen in Helsinki (2006).

Johanna has performed as an oratorio soloist and has given lieder recitals in numerous European countries as well as in Japan, Chile, the United States and North Korea. The soprano part of the *Kullervo Symphony* by Jean Sibelius has become one of her trademark pieces. She has recently performed in Kullervo, at Prag Spring festival, Tokyo and the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago. Her interpretation in Penderecki's Polish Requiem under the composer's baton was awarded a Grammy in 2017.

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