

# Kirsi Tiihonen Soprano



Alste & Mödersheim

In 2005 the Finnish artist celebrated her debut at La Scala in Milan performing **Elisabeth** under the baton of Jeffrey Tate. The same year she had her Richard Strauss debut as **Ariadne** (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) at the Lyon Opera. Her second Strauss role, **Die Färberin** (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*) in Helsinki received international critical acclaim. In autumn of 2006, Kirsi further interpreted the role of **Die Färberin** at the Essen Aalto Opera under maestro Stefan Soltezs and performed **Isolde** at Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels.



After winning several main prizes in major international singing competitions, such as the Cardiff Singer of the World, Kirsi Tiihonen began her career at the Finnish National Opera, singing **Elisabetta** (*Don Carlo*), **Donna Anna** (*Don Giovanni*), **Leonore** (*Fidelio*) and **Desdemona** (*Otello*), and subsequently was invited to return as a regular guest. During 1997-99, she debuted at the Savonlinna Opera Festival in the roles of **Elisabeth** (*Tannhäuser*) and **Aida**, followed by **Senta** (*Der fliegende Holländer*) and **Venus/Elisabeth**. In 2000, she added **Sieglinde** (*Die Walküre*) and **Gutrune** (*Götterdämmerung*) to her repertoire, singing with the Berlin State Opera on their tour of Japan and under the baton of Daniel Barenboim. In the following seasons, she debuted the role of **Amelia** (*Un ballo in maschera*) at the Royal Danish Opera and **Isolde** (*Tristan und Isolde*) at Gothenburg Opera. In her 2003/04 season, Kirsi sang **Leonore** (*Fidelio*) at the Komische Oper Berlin and the role of **Riitta** (*The Last Temptations*) by Joonas Kokkonen, performed at both, Tampere Opera and the Prague Spring Festival.

Other highlights of Kirsi Tiihonen's international career include **Isolde** at Leipzig Opera, Santiago de Chile and with the Norwegian Opera's tour to Madrid, **Leonore** for the Palm Beach Opera and Berlin State Opera, **Agathe** (*Der Freischütz*) in Helsinki, **Senta** in the Philipp Stölzl production of *Der fliegende Holländer* at the Basel Opera as well as **Brünnhilde** (*Siegfried*) in Essen. In 2009 Tiihonen debuted as **Elsa** (*Lohengrin*) at Tampere Opera and returned to Helsinki to perform the role of **Ellen Orford** (*Peter Grimes*). Her most recent performances include **Sieglinde** (*Die Walküre*) at the Finnish National Opera, her debut as **Kostelnicka** in Janacek's *Jenufa* at Malmö Opera in Sweden and **Isolde** at the Pablo Casals Festival in Puerto Rico. Last season, Tiihonen sang in the Patrice Chéreau production of **Elektra**, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen at the Finnish National Opera. In seasons 2017-19 Tiihonen is engaged to sing all three **Brünnhilde**'s of the Ring des Nibelungen at the Kiel opera house in Germany, where she also made her debut in the role **Turandot** in summer 2017. In 2019 she will sing for the first time on the stage of the Deutsche Oper Berlin as **Larina** in Tchaikovsky's *Eugen Onegin*.

In addition to her opera career, Kirsi Tiihonen has appeared as a concert singer at most major concert halls in Europe - the Philharmonic of St Petersburg, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam with Ingo Metzmacher, the BBC Proms in Royal Albert Hall in London with Maestro Osmo Vänskä and the Berlin Philharmonic under the baton of Vladimir Ashkenazy, to name a few. She has also sung under the conductors Mark Wigglesworth, Paavo Berglund, Jukka-Pekka Saraste and their contemporaries.

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Opera-Connection Alste & Mödersheim

✉ Unter den Linden 21 D - 10117 Berlin ☎ Tel.: +49 (0) 30 31 99 66 88 📞 Hotline : +49 (0)700 122 122 10  
info@opera-connection.com www.opera-connection.com