

Kirsi Tiihonen Soprano

*"Kirsi Tiihonen was an extremely fortunate choice for the role of **Brünnhilde**, that it seems to be made for her!" The press marvelled at her recent engagement for the complete Ring cycle at Theater Kiel during the 2017-19 seasons. "Her huge voice holds everything together like the heart piece of this production - she sings with tremendous passion but sounds at the same time so unbelievably natural and authentic. Very strong!"*

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*). She was subsequently invited to return as a regular guest. During 1997-1999, 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 the roles of **Sieglinde** (*Die Walküre*) and **Gutrune** (*Götterdämmerung*) to her repertoire, singing with the Berlin State Opera on their tour of Japan under the baton of Daniel Barenboim. During the following seasons, she sang **Amelia** (*Un ballo in maschera*) at the Royal Danish Opera, **Isolde** (*Tristan und Isolde*) at the Gothenburg Opera, **Leonore** (*Fidelio*) at the Komische Oper Berlin and the role of **Riitta** (*The Last Temptations*) by Joonas Kokkonen, performed at both the Tampere Opera and the Prague Spring Festival.



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 made her Richard Strauss debut as **Ariadne** (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) at the Lyon Opera and her second Strauss role, **Die Färberin** (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*) in Helsinki, for which she received international critical acclaim. In the autumn of 2006, Kirsi performed the role of **Die Färberin** for the Essen Aalto Opera under maestro Stefan Soltesz and performed **Isolde** at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels.

Some international career highlights include **Isolde** at the Leipzig Opera, Santiago de Chile and with the Norwegian Opera's tour to Madrid, **Leonore** for the Palm Beach Opera and the 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, Kirsi debuted as **Elsa** (*Lohengrin*) at the 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 the Malmö Opera in Sweden and **Isolde** at the Pablo Casals Festival in Puerto Rico. In 2017, Kirsi made her debut as **Turandot** at the Kiel Music Festival. In the 2018-19 season, she sang in the Patrice Chéreau production of **Elektra**, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen at the Finnish National Opera. In 2019, she made her debut at the Deutsche Oper Berlin as **Larina** in Eugen Onegin followed by **Die Aufseherin** in Elektra. In the summer of 2022, Kirsi sang the role of **Riitta** in Joonas Kokkonen's opera *The Last Temptations* at the Kokkola Opera Festival.

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