

Kirsi Tiihonen Soprano

„Kirsi Tiihonen was an extremely fortunate choice for the role of **Brünnhilde**“, that seems to be made for her!“ marvels the press about her recent engagement of the complete Ring cycle at Theater Kiel during the 2017-19 seasons. „Her huge voice holds everything together like the heart pice 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*), 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.



During the following seasons, she sang **Amelia** (*Un ballo in maschera*) at the Royal Danish Opera, **Isolde** (*Tristan und Isolde*) at Gothenburg Opera, **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.

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, which 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.

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 addition to her opera career, Kirsi Tiihonen has appeared as a concert singer at most major concert halls in Europe.

updated September 2019

Opera-Connection Alste & Mödersheim