



NINA VAN ESSEN **MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Nina van Essen is a member of Staatsoper Hannover since the 2019/2020 season, her repertoire including parts such as Hänsel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Rosina in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Orlofsky in Strauß' *Die Fledermaus*.

Born in 1994, the Nederlandse mezzo-soprano finished her studies at Koninklijk Conservatorium te Den Haag with summa cum laude. Currently, Nina van Essen works with Sasja Hunnago at Dutch National Opera Academy for which she received a scholarship by Miluška Duffková Foundation. As an erasmus exchange student, she studied at Lyon am Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Lyon from 2014 to 2015 working with Isabelle Germain, Françoise Pollet and coach Fabrice Boulanger. She took part in the program "Junge Talente" at Koninklijk Conservatorium Den Haag. At the 52e Internationaal Vocalisten Concours 's-Hertogenbosch 2018, Nina van Essen was awarded the Annett Concert Prize as well as the Audience Prize.

Master classes and summer courses with Meinard Kraak, Alain Garichot, Ilmo Ranta, Marjan Kuiper, Angelika Kirchschrager, Maurice Lammerts van Bueren, Nadine Secunde, Neil Semer, Roberta Cunningham, Claron McFadden and Ira Siff refined her studies.

In 2018, she made her debuts in the title role in Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* at Dutch National Opera Academie, Mercedes in Bizet's *Carmen* and Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. During the 2017/2018 season, she performed Masha in Shostakovich's *Moskwa, Tsjeremusjki* at Théâtre Equilibre Fribourg, Théâtre de L'Athénée in Paris, followed by further performances at L'opéra de Clermont-Ferrand and Théâtre Le Reflet de Vevey during the 2018/2019 season. In 2019, she performed Gwendolyn Fairfax in Harry's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Théâtre Equilibre Fribourg and Théâtre de L'Athénée Paris.

At Dutch National Opera Amsterdam, Nina van Essen performed Madrigalist in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* under the baton of Alexander Joel in a production by Andrea Breth in 2016 [Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra]. At Dutch National Opera Academy, the mezzo-soprano made her debut as Madame de la Haltiere in Massenet's *Cendrillon*, accompanied by Residentie orchestra under the baton of Walter Althammer, and Hansel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* under the baton of Antony Hermus in 2017.

Nina van Essen works closely with pianist Harimada Kusuma, with whom she recorded her first CD in 2013 CD "Maintenant Ici". Besides her intense work as Lied- and opera soloist, she also loves the ensemble work and enjoyed a project in 2014 "Masters and companions" with Kaspars Putnins and Coach Geert Bergs. She also took part in a *Medee*-Produktion with OPERA2DAY.

As solist, Nina van Essen performed with Krashna Musika under the baton of Ruben de Grauw, Salone dell'Opera. She appeared at Concertgebouw, Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, Tivoli Vredenburg and de Doelen. In 2018, she returned to Concertgebouw Amsterdam for Delius' *A Village Romeo and Juliet* with Radio Filharmonisch Orkest under the baton of Sir Mark Elder.