



BELE KUMBERGER **MEZZO-SOPRANO**

Bele Kumberger's bright soprano was both joyous and plaintive in the Goose Girl's music... Opera, April 2019

In 2027, Bele Kumberger will make her debut at Oper Leipzig, singing in the premiere of Saariaho's *Innocence*.

The mezzo-soprano has been a member of Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen from 2016 until 2025, where her role debuts include Sesto in Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, Vixen Sharp-Ears in Janáček's *The cunning little Vixen*, Mozart's Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Blanche in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, as well as Magdalena in Reimann's *Bernada Albas Haus*, Lilly in the German premiere of Saariaho's *Innocence*, Spelunkenjenny in Weill's *Die Dreigroschenoper* as well as Hansel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*.

Born in Straubing, Bele Kumberger received a Bavarian Song Academy scholarship and studied with Manuela Dill in Munich. She continued her studies at Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin with Anneliese Fried and is working with Neil Semer from 2022, when she started her fach change from soprano to mezzo-soprano. In 2007, she joined Wolfram Rieger's recital class and Julia Varady's interpretation class. In master classes Bele Kumberger has worked with director Willy Decker, accompanist Irwin Gage, early music specialist Wolfgang Katschner, bass-baritone Thomas Quasthoff and baritone Bo Skovhus. She has been awarded scholarships by Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now Foundation and Jütting Stiftung and in 2017 received the 20th Gelsenkirchener Theaterpreis "for outstanding artists of the Musiktheater".

Bele Kumberger was a regular guest at the Bayreuth Festival from 2016 to 2019 and returned for a concert performance of Wagner's *Parsifal* in 2021 conducted by Christian Thielemann. He also was on the podium during her Salzburg Easter Festival debut in 2013. In 2015 the German made her UK debut with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by Andris Nelsons. She has also appeared as a guest at Beijing Music Festival, Berlin Staatsoper, Seefestspiele Mörbisch, Braunschweig State Opera and the Carl Orff-Festival Andechs, to name but a few.

Bele Kumberger's concert repertoire includes works by Bruckner, Mozart, Pergolesi, Vivaldi and Haydn's *Arianna a Naxos*. She is also a dedicated recitalist with a wide repertoire. In 2019, she joined baritone Bo Skovhus for a tour to Konzerthaus Blaibach, Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen and Teatro Principal Zaragoza.

Bele Kumberger has performed with Bamberger Symphoniker, Bayreuth Festival Orchestra, Bochumer Symphoniker, China Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Deutsches Sinfonie-Orchester, Lautten Compagnie Berlin, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, Staatskapelle Berlin and Staatskapelle Halle and worked with conductors including Semyon Bychkov, Hartmut Haenchen, Marek Janowski, Julia Jones, Andris Nelsons and Christian Thielemann.

Her discography as a soprano includes Hindemith's *Tuttifantchen* with Deutsches Sinfonie-Orchester Berlin (cpo), Bock's *The Fiddler on the Roof* (OEHMS) and Wagner's *Parsifal* with Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden (Deutsche Grammophon) and the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra (Unitel).