

Sophie Junker

soprano

Sophie Junker regularly performs with top-flight conductors including Harry Bicket (Dorinda *Orlando*), Laurence Cummings (Sigismondo in Handel's *Arminio*, Aspasia in *Alexander Balus*, Michal in *Saul*, and Bellezza in *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*), Christian Curnyn (Italian Woman in Charpentier's *Médée*, Phoebe in Rameau's *Castor et Pollux*), Masaaki Suzuki (Monteverdi's *Vespers*), and Stefano Montanari (Zerlina *Don Giovanni*).

Described by Opera magazine as "... irresistibly charming", Sophie already has an established relationship with the Opera Royal de Liège Wallonie (Elisetta *Il Matrimonio segreto*, Wanda *La Grande Duchesse de Gêrolstein*, title-role in Pauline Viardot's *Cendrillon*), and Angers-Nantes Opéra (Amour *Orphée et Eurydice*, Constance *Dialogues des Carmélites*). She made her American operatic début in 2016, singing Cleis in Martini's *Sapho* and Hélène in Chabrier's *Une Éducation Manquée* (Opera Lafayette, New York, and Washington). Further operatic roles include Caio in Vivaldi's *Ottone in Villa* at the Copenhagen Opera Festival, Proserpine/Euridice in Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux enfers* (Wigmore Hall, The Hague), and Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*, Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik).

In concert, Sophie appears regularly as soloist with Concerto Copenhagen conducted by Lars Ulrik Mortensen, with David Bates' La Nuovo Musica, with the Belgium-based ensemble Vox Luminis, with Le Concert de la Loge conducted by Julien Chauvin, with Le Poème Harmonique conducted by Vincent Dumestre and with Jonathan Cohen's Arcangelo. She performed Bach's *St John Passion* with Ensemble 1704 (Paris, Prague, Dresden, and Dortmund) and under Leonardo García Alarcón in a staged production by Sasha Waltz (Salzburg Easter



Festival and Opéra de Dijon), Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at the Vienna Konzerthaus, Haydn's *Creation* with the Russian National Orchestra in Moscow, Lully's *Grands Motets* and toured *Vespro a san Marco* alongside the Chœur de Chambre de Namur conducted by Leonardo García Alarcón. Further performances included Fauré's *Requiem* conducted by Klaas Stok (Amsterdam Concertgebouw), Mozart's *Grande Messe in C minor* with B'Rock, and Handel's *Apollo e Dafne* with {oh!} Orkiestra conducted by Martyna Pastuszka and Mendelssohn's *Paulus* under Leonardo García Alarcón at Victoria Hall, Geneva.

Sophie's repertoire also includes roles such as Cunegunda in Leonardo Vinci's *Gismondo* (Vienna, Moscow, Dortmund and Bayreuth), Venere in Legrenzi's *La Divisione del Mondo* conducted by Christophe Rousset (Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Colmar, Nancy, Versailles and Cologne), Eurilla in Handel's *Il Pastor Fido*

(Gliwice and Händel-Festspiele Halle) and Atalanta in Handel's **Serse** in a Clarac & Deloeuils production conducted by David Bates (Opéra de Rouen Normandie). ~~She also made her~~ Further debuts include Drusilla in **L'Incoronazione di Poppea** at the Staatsoper Berlin conducted by Diego Fasolis, and sang the title role in Handel's **Theodora** conducted by Leonardo García Alarcón (Namur, Beaune) and at Händel-Festspiele Karlsruhe as Emira in Handel's **Siroe, re di Persia**, staged by Ulrich Peters in 2024.

Sophie's lithe and sparkling soprano has also been heard as Angelica in Vivaldi's **Orlando Furioso** (La Seine Musicale), Clori in Cavalli's **Egisto** (Royal Opera of Versailles) and Asteria in Handel's **Tamerlano** with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra conducted by Christopher Moulds (Tchaikovsky Hall, Moscow). In 2022, she made her debut as Cleopatra in **Giulio Cesare** under the direction of George Petrou (Reisopera, Handel Festival in Göttingen) and as Atilia in Cavalli's **Eliogabalo**, directed by Calixto Bieito (Zurich Opera House).

Sophie's 2024/25 season is shaped by a thriving cooperation with Leonardo García Alarcón which gave way for exciting concerts and staged productions. Starting the season with the revival of Sasha Waltz' production of **St John Passion** at Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the soprano will also take part in concerts of Bach Cantatas in 2025 as well as in a tour of Monteverdi's **L'Incoronazione di Poppea** through Germany, Switzerland and France (title-role). Sophie will revive the Händel-Festspiele Karlsruhe production of **Siroe, re di Persia** in the role of Emira and will take part in the tour of Handel's **Deborah** under Tom Koopman (title-role).

The soprano's discography includes **Sacrifices** with La Nuova Musica (Harmonia Mundi), Handel's **Esther** with Laurence Cummings (Accent), Grétry's **L'Épreuve Villageoise** (Naxos), Bach's **Secular Cantatas** with the Bach Collegium Japan under Masaaki Suzuki (BIS), **Stravaganza d'amore** with Pygmalion under

Raphaël Pichon (Harmonia Mundi) and Cunegunda in Leonardo Vinci's **Gismondo** (Parnassus Arts Productions). In 2020, Sophie's first solo album, **La Francesina**, was released under the label Aparté. This publication won an *International Classical Music Award* as well as the *Trophée Forum-Opéra*.

(2024/25_Please use this biography exclusively.)