

## *Katija Dragojevic Mezzo-soprano Biography*



*Katija Dragojevic as Cherubino, Teatro alla Scala. Photo: Brescia e Amisano.*

Katija Dragojevic continues to thrill the audiences both in the opera house and on the concert stage. The beauty, warmth and agility of her voice as well as her exquisite musicality and strong stage presence has taken her to many of the world's leading opera houses such as Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Salzburger Festspiele, Baden-Baden Festspielhaus, Le Grand Théâtre de Genève, Théâtre de la Monnaie, Opéra National de Paris, Théâtre du Châtelet, Theater an der Wien, Festival d'Aix en Provence as well as The Royal Opera Stockholm, Finnish National Opera, The Norwegian Opera and Ballet, and Drottningholm Court Theatre.

She has sung with conductors such as Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Thomas Hengelbrock, Daniel Barenboim, Kent Nagano, Michael Tilson Thomas, William Christie, Sakari Oramo, Marc Soustrot, Manfred Honeck, Louis Langrée, Ivor Bolton, Leif Segerstam, Antonio Pappano, Maurizio Benini, Christophe Rousset, Andris Nelsons, Daniel Harding and Harry Bicket.

As a much sought after concert soloist she has performed with orchestras such as Orchestre de Paris, Philharmonisches Staatsorchester, Hamburg, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, Münchner Philharmoniker, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Stockholm Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Lisbon and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra.

Katija has sung at the Nobel Prize Award Banquet as well as at Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden's birthday celebrations and most recently at the 250 year celebration of The Royal Swedish Academy of Music, 2021.

During the autumn of 2021 Katija made a huge success singing the main role *Eva* in the world premiere of Erik Gedeon's "Animals who hate humans" at Uppsala Stadsteater. A role that demanded operatic singing as well as jazz, samba and chansons. 2021 also included her participation in the film "Mozart opera at Drottningholm" filmed at Drottningholm Court Theatre for Swedish Television, singing roles such as *Cherubino* and *Idamante*.

In the season of 2019 / 2020 she received great reviews for her *Zerlina* (Don Giovanni) at Norrlandsoperan and for her role as *Tea* in the world premiere of Johan Ullén's "The Love machine" at Norrbottensmusiken, Piteå.

2017/ 2018 Katija sang the title role in Offenbach's *Fantasio* at Le Grand Théâtre de Genève to great acclaim, *Dorabella* (Così fan tutte) at Semperoper Dresden, the title role in *Carmen* at Helsinki National Opera as well as *La belle Dulcinée* in Massenet's Don Quichotte at Folkoperan, Stockholm. The season 2015/ 2016 she sang the title role in Handel's *Serse* as well as the title role in *Carmen* and *Dorabella* at Stockholm Royal Opera.

Other recent engagements have been as *Idamante* (Idomeneo) at Drottningholm Court Theatre, *Dorabella* at Teatro alla Scala with maestro Daniel Barenboim (RAI, Medici TV) and at Theater an der Wien with maestro Nikolaus Harnoncourt (DVD) and *Zerlina* at Baden-Baden Festspiele with Thomas Hengelbrock, including a starry cast with Anna Netrebko as Donna Anna (DVD, Mezzo TV).

Katija's operatic roles also include: *Cherubino* (Le nozze di Figaro) at Teatro alla Scala, Salzburger Festspiele and many other opera houses, *Sesto* (La clemenza di Tito) at Drottningholm Court Theatre, *Siébel* in Gounod's (Faust) at ROH Covent Garden, *La Musica and La Messaggiera* in Monteverdi's (Orfeo) with Ivor Bolton and Freiburger Baroque and *Melanto* in Monteverdi's (Il ritorno d'Ulisse) with Christophe Rousset and Les Talens Lyriques at Theater an der Wien, *Lucretia* in Britten's (The Rape of Lucretia) at The Norwegian Opera and Ballet, *Varvara* in Janáček's (Katia Kabanova) at Gothenburg Opera, *Krista* in Janáček's (Makropulos' case) at Théâtre de la Monnaie, *Orlofsky* (Die Fledermaus) at Glyndebourne Festival opera, the title role in (*La Cenerentola*) at Finnish National Opera, *Lychas* in Handel's (Hercules) with William Christie and Les Arts Florissants at BAM, New York with Joyce di Donato, *Ein Page* (Salome) and *Meg Page* (Falstaff) at the Royal Opera, Stockholm, *The Second Lady*, (Zauberflöte) at Opéra National de Paris, *Hänsel* in (Hänsel und Gretel) at Opera North and *Il Prologo and Venere* in Peri's (Euridice) at Drottningholm Court Theatre.

Her wide concert repertoire includes: Berlioz: *Les nuits d'été*, Alma Mahler Selected *Lieder*, Gustav Mahler: *Lieder from Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, *Das Lied von der Erde*, Lili Boulanger: *Psaume 130*, J.S. Bach: *Weihnachtsoratorium*, *Matthäus-Passion*, *Johannes-Passion*, *Magnificat*, *b-*

*minor Mass, Mozart: Great Mass in c minor, Requiem; Handel: The Messiah, Dixit Dominus, Haydn: Stabat mater, Nelson Mass, Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle, Beethoven: Missa solemnis, Symphony No 9 and Schumann: Faust-Szenen.*

Katija recorded Berlioz' *Roméo et Juliette* (Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Ticciati) for Lynn Records and Haydn's *Missa Sancti Hieronymi* and *Temete Dominum* for BIS (Gary Graden) as well as *Così fan tutte* (TAW, Harnoncourt) and *Don Giovanni* (Baden-Baden Festspielhaus, Hengelbrock) on DVD. She also featured as Zerlina in the film *Juan* (Mozart's *Don Giovanni*) directed by Kasper Holten.

Many contemporary composers have composed especially for Katija's voice, such as Sven-David Sandströms opera *Föreställningen* 2016 which she also produced and commissioned (Royal Opera Stockholm) and *Requiem* 2011 (Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra) as well as Marie Samuelsson's *Afrodite* 2019 (Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra/ Mei-Ann Chen) released 2019 on CD for Daphne/ Naxos.

Katija was educated at the Royal Academy of Music, Stockholm and at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London.