

Latvian soprano Margarita Vilsonē's guest appearances include opera houses and concert halls throughout Europe. Critics and audiences are bowled over by her expressive interpretation and the rich, warm timbre of her voice.

In addition to concerts and recitals, in the **2023/24 season** Margarita Vilsonē will perform at the Mainfranken Theater Würzburg as Chrysothemis in R. Strauss' *Elektra*. She also has two role debuts in her calendar. She will make her debut at the Staatstheater Mainz with the role of Martha in Mieczysław Weinberg's opera *The Passenger* and at the Teatro Verdi in Trieste with the title role in Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Highly acclaimed **role debuts** in the 2022/23 season were Chrysothemis (R. Strauss, *Elektra*) and Elektra (Krenek, *Leben des Orest*) at the Theater Münster and Tosca in Puccini's opera of the same name at the Stadttheater Gießen. Margarita Vilsonē also gave her celebrated debut with the Tonhalle-Orchester in 2023 at the Tonhalle Zurich with Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*.

Further important role debuts in the past seasons included Amalia in Verdi's *I Masnadieri* at the Volksoper Wien (conducted by Alfred Eschwé) and at the Latvijas Nacionālā Opera in Riga Marguerite in Charles Gounod's *Faust*, Anna in Giacomo Puccini's *Le Villi*, Clara in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* (Cesis Mākslas Festivāls) and Rosalinde in J. Strauß' *Fledermaus*. She sang the role of Rosalinde also at Schlossoper Haldenstein, as well as at Staatstheater Nürnberg where she also made her debuts in the roles of Micaëla (*Carmen*), Mimi (*La Bohème*) and Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*). Other Mozart roles include Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*, Junge Oper Schloss Weikersheim) and 1. Dame in *Die Zauberflöte*. At Staatstheater Nürnberg, Margarita Vilsonē also appeared for the first time in Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*: In *Walküre*, she performed Ortlinde and in *Götterdämmerung* Dritte Norn and Woglinde. At Stadttheater Klagenfurt, she sang Lisa in Lehár's *Das Land des Lächelns*. At the Volkstheater Rostock, Margarita Vilsonē had guest appearances in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, directed by Vera Nemirova.

Concerts have taken Margarita Vilsonē to Great Britain, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia, Switzerland, Austria and Germany. In 2014, the *Symphony No. 4* by Gustav Mahler marked the beginning of her ongoing collaboration with the Liepāja Symphony Orchestra. Other concert performances included appearances with Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Staatsphilharmonie Nürnberg, Norddeutsche Philharmonie, Jena Philharmonie, Philharmonisches Orchester Cottbus, Kärntner Sinfonieorchester and Westböhmisches Sinfonieorchester under the baton of such conductors as Marcus Bosch, Nicholas Carter, Michael Francis, Gábor Káli, Atvars Lakstīgala, Alexander Merzyn, Andris Poga, Gintaras Rinkevičius, David Roblou, Guido Johannes Rumstadt, Giedrė Šlekytė, Sebastian Tewinkel and Bruno Weil.

Margarita Vilsonē's **concert repertoire** includes *Symphony No. 9* by Ludwig van Beethoven, *Messa da Requiem* by Giuseppe Verdi, Mahler's *Symphony No. 2 & No. 4*, J. S. Bach's *Weihnachtsoratorium*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Antonín Dvořák's *Stabat mater*, Kristaps Cukur's *To be my own silence* (world premiere), Honegger's *König David* and Richard Strauss' *Vier letzte Lieder*.

Margarita Vilsonē's large **Lied repertoire** ranges from Romantic to contemporary music. Among others, she gave recitals at the Festival Liepāja Summer, at the *Voices* festival and also in the context of the exhibition *Hitler.Macht.Oper* at the Dokumentationszentrum Nürnberg with *Lieder* by banned composers.

From 2015 – 2017, Margarita Vilsonē was member of the International Opera Studio of the Staatstheater Nürnberg.

The soprano received the DAAD Prize, is winner of the international singing contest Accademia Belcanto and finalist of the international singing contest Riccardo Zandonai.

She is a scholarship holder of both the Richard Wagner Society and the Oscar and Vera Ritter Foundation, and was awarded the Deutschlandstipendium.

Margarita Vilsonē began her vocal studies at the Hochschule für Künste Bremen and graduated from the Hochschule für Musik Nürnberg with Prof Jan Hammar. She attended master classes with Helmut Deutsch, Robert Holl, Christa Ludwig, Angelika Kirchschrager, Hedwig Fassbender, Krisztina Laki, Maris Skuja and Mya Besselink and is continuing her studies with Dale Fundling.

(December 2023)