

Maria Riccarda Wesseling

biography

Maria Riccarda Wesseling was born in Graubünden (Switzerland). She celebrated her international break-through in 2006 at the Opéra de Paris, where she substituted on short notice for Susan Graham in the title role at the première of Glucks „Iphigénie en Tauride“. „Une découverte“ headlined „Les Echos“.

One year later, at the premiere of Henzes opera Phaedra at the Staatsoper Berlin, Deutschlandradio Kultur stated that: „Die grandiose Mezzosopranistin Maria Riccarda Wesseling ist eine Idealbesetzung für die rückhaltlos liebende Phaedra“. She also sang this part at the Monnaie in Brussels and at the Barbican Center London.

In 2008 she returned to the Opéra de Paris as Glucks „Orpheus“. This, by Pina Bausch produced and by Thomas Hengelbrock directed, production was transmitted live on arte-tv and appeared on DVD recently (BelAir). At the Opéra de Lyon she sang Hedwig in Offenbach's „Rheinnixen“ (conductor: Minkowski), la Malaspina in Sciarrinos „Luci mie traditrici“, Bianca in Zemlinskys „Tragédie Florentine“, as well as Metella in Offenbach's „La Vie Parisienne“ in the production of Laurent Pelly (Virgin) that also came out on DVD. At the National Opera of Helsinki she embodied the „Pèlerin“ in Kaaia Saariahos opera „L'amour de loin“ (direction: Peter Sellars), at the Grand Théâtre de Genève Giulietta in „Les contes d' Hoffmann “ under the direction of Olivier Py (DVD with BelAir). In Bilbao she replaced Sonia Ganassi in the title part of Bizets Carmen, at the DNO Amsterdam she sang Orlofsky in „Die Fledermaus“, on the Ruhrtriennale 2009 Claude Viviers „Wo bist Du Licht“ and at the Opéra de Bordeaux she was Irma in Eötvös's „Le Balcon“.

Her earlier intensive studies of Händel have materialized in a solo CD, several operas and DVDs. Maria Riccarda Wesseling performs a broad concert repertoire in halls such as the Gewandhaus Leipzig (Johannespassion under Riccardo Chailly), the Concertgebouw Amsterdam (interpretation of Songs), Tonhalle Zurich, the Kölner and Essener Philharmonic („Poème de l'amour et de la mer“ under Minkowski), the Bozar Brussels and others.

Future works comprise: Hermione in Gretrys „Andromaque“ at the Schwetzingen Festival (simultaneous with the CD release of the recording of „Andromaque“ at the Theatre of the Champs Élysées Paris), Marie in Berg's „Wozzeck“, title part in „Iphigénie en Tauride“ and Offenbach's „Belle Hélène“, Berlioz' „Marguerite“ as well as Mahlers „Kindertotenlieder“, „Rückertlieder“ and Hartmann's first Symphonie.

There are several solo-CD's, opera-CD's and DVD's of Maria Riccarda Wesseling available.

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