

Erika Sunnegårdh soprano

After her critically acclaimed operatic debut in 2004 in the role of **Turandot** at the Malmö Opera, and her much publicized Met -Debut as **Fidelio** in *Leonore* in 2006, Swedish-American soprano Erika Sunnegårdh established herself as a unique and touching artist; earning a reputation for her ability to integrate effective musicianship with uncompromisingly fearless and emotionally nuanced characterisations. Roles like **Salome**, **Leonore**, **Turandot**, **Tosca**, **Senta**, and **Kaiserin** have dominated her career; while novelties like **Euryanthe**, **Jenufa**, **Regan** in *LEAR*, **Eva** in *Autumn Sonata*, and **Paulina** in *Death and the Maiden* have enriched and deepened her artistic commitment.

During 2019-20 Erika Sunnegårdh repeated the role of Regan in Calixto Bieito's production of Reimann's **LEAR** in Florence and Paris, as well as *Eva* in the critically acclaimed World Premiere production of Sebastian Fagerlund's **Autumn Sonata** (Finnish National Opera 2017), which took off for Malmö Opera and the Hong Kong Cultural Festival. She also sang **Leonore** in *Fidelio* at the reopening of the State Opera in Prague. The season of 2022/23 include the role of Regan in *LEAR* at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich.

Having sung in mid- and upperlevel opera houses, with a wide range of colleagues, she has accumulated an extensive body of experience and insight into both the business and artistic methodology of music drama. From the season of 2019-2020, Erika has been turning her attention to new opera repertoire, favouring retention of vocal flexibility and lyricism, rather than taking the more traditional route into heavier dramatic roles.

Feeling particularly at home with the music of Strauss, Beethoven, Puccini and Wagner, Erika Sunnegårdh has performed the roles of Kaiserin in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* at Staatstheater Wiesbaden and Leipzig Opera; **Chrysothemis** in *Elektra* at the Grand Théâtre Genève and Staatstheater Wiesbaden; Leonore in *Fidelio* at Oper Frankfurt, Staatsoper Hamburg, The Metropolitan Opera, Oper Köln and Finnish Broadcasting Company; Tosca at the Oper Frankfurt, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Royal Stockholm Opera, Oper Köln and Nashville Opera; Turandot with the Deutsche Oper Berlin, The Metropolitan Opera, the Bregenzer Festspiele, Oper Köln, and in Sweden at the Royal Stockholm Opera, Malmö Opera and Norrlandsoperan and Senta in *Der Fliegende Holländer* at the Oper Frankfurt, Oslo Opera, Oper Köln, Staatstheater Wiesbaden, and

Atlanta Opera, **Brünnhilde** in Wagner's *Siegfried* at the Tokyo Nomori Festival (concerts) under Marek Janowski; and her beloved Salome, at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Teatro Communale di Bologna, Semperoper Dresden, Canadian Opera Company, Welsh National Opera, the Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona, Teatro Regio Torino, Royal Opera Stockholm, Teatr Wielki Warsaw, Teatro Petruzzelli Bari, and the New International Theatre in Tokyo.

Other notable interpretations include Regan in Calixto Bieito's career defining staging of Aribert Reimann's *LEAR* at the Paris Opera Garnier, *Euryanthe* at Oper Frankfurt, Jenufa by Janacek and *Paulina* in the world premiere of Jonas Forssell's *Death and the Maiden* in Malmö. Further Wagner includes **Helmwige** (Aix-en-Provence/Salzburg) and **Gerhilde** (Met Tour/Japan) in *Die Walküre*, as well as **Isabella** in *Das Liebesverbot* with the Münchener Rundfunk. While not considered part of her core repertoire, she has also given acclaimed dramatic portrayals of Verdi's **Lady Macbeth** at the Glyndebourne Festival, **Abigaille** at Teater Hedeland, and **Norma** at the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden.

In concert she has performed with the Berlin Philharmonic, Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig, the RAI Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonic, Danish Philharmonic, Gothenburg Symphony, Malmö Symphony, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, Milwaukee Symphony, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Swedish Radio Symphony, Nashville Symphony, Finnish National Radio, and the percussion ensemble Kroumata; singing repertoire including the *Verdi Requiem*, *Mahler's Eighth Symphony*, *Rossini Stabat Mater*, *Zemlinsky's Lyric Symphony* and *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony*, Janacek's *Glacolithic Mass*, Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony* as well as opera in concert and newly commissioned works.

Erika has had the pleasure and privilege of working with, among others, Marco Armiliato, Semyon Bychkov, Paolo Carignani, Riccardo Chailly, Myung Wun Chung, James Conlon, Andreas Delfs, Gustavo Dudamel, Adam Fischer, John Fiore, Hartmut Haenchen, Daniel Harding, Will Humburg, Lothar Koenigs, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, Fabio Luisi, Nicola Luisotti, Cornelius Meister, Gianandrea Noseda, Kirill Petrenko, Sir Simon Rattle and Stefan Soltesz.

During her education she attended the Israel Vocal Arts Institute, Tanglewood Music Center, the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies, The International

Institute of Vocal Arts in Italy, as well as the undergraduate program at the Manhattan School of Music; all on scholarship.

In 1999 Erika completed her Master of Arts degree at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College after two profoundly inspiring and personally beneficial years – an experience to which she credits much of her present artistic capacity.

During her education, Ms. Sunnegårdh was a recipient of the annual Cultural Award of the American Scandinavian Society, for the promotion of Scandinavian Culture in the United States. She also founded *In time with Music*, a community outreach program which benefited hundreds of public school children in Queens, New York. She has also been nominated for a Dora Award for her Canadian Opera Company *Salome*, as well as been nominated several times for Singer of the Year by the Swedish Opera Magazine.

January 2023

Please contact Braathen Artist Management if you wish to edit this biography