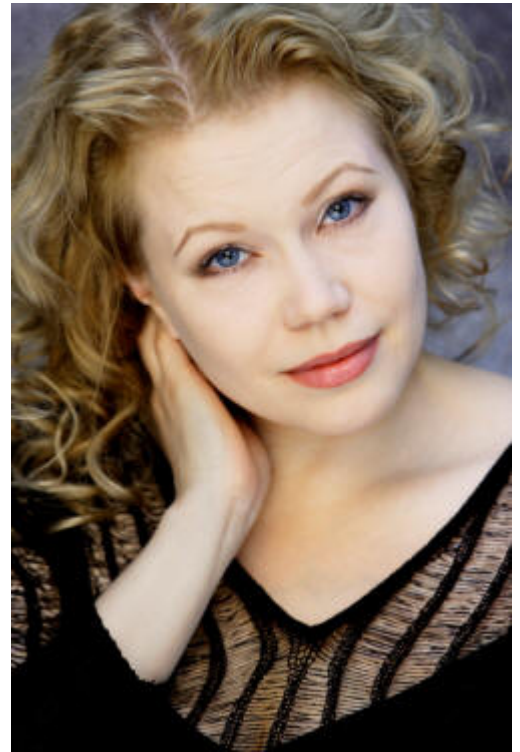


HELENA JUNTUNEN - Soprano

Helena Juntunen is one of Finland's most dazzling sopranos, leading both a national and international career. Her beautiful soprano voice enraptures audiences with its freshness, and her phrasing is praised for its expressive and natural quality. Helenas career in Finland was established through winning many competitions.

Helena Juntunen started her vocal studies at the age of 15 at the Oulu Conservatoire with Airi Tokola and graduated as a Master of Music from the Sibelius Academy, where her teacher was Anita Vällki.

Helena Juntunen has been a regular performer at the **Finnish National Opera** since 1999. But it was with the role of Marguerite in Gounods Faust at the **Savonlinna Opera Festival** in 2002 where she had her professional breakthrough. Followed her US-debut with the **Connecticut Opera** in the 2003-2004 season with the same role. Other debuts in this period include Madame Cortese in Rossinis Il viaggio a Reims in Genova, Zdenka in Strauss' Arabella in Antwerp, and Pamina in The Magic Flute at the **State Opera Dresden**. Helena also gave her debut concert at **New Yorks Carnegie Hall** in October 2003, followed by her first appearance in Tokyo.



After adding roles like Liu (Turandot) and Sophie (Rosenkavalier) to her repertoire, she made a brilliant debut with the **Vienna Festival** as Pamina, a role which she also sang in Brussels, Nancy, Minnesota, Caen, Vienna, Aix- en-Provence and Geneva.

In the following years she performed roles like The Countess (Le Nozze di Figaro) and Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni) at the **Opera national de Lyon**, Tatjana (Eugen Onegin) in Wasa, Marie (Wozzeck) in Nice, Jenny(Mahagonny), Donna Clara (The Dwarf by Zemlinsky) and Marietta (Die Tote Stadt by Korngold) in Nancy and Mimi (Helsinki) for the first time.

In 2012 Helena Juntunen received particular acclaim for her interpretation of the role of Grete in Schreker's Der ferne Klang at her debut with **Strasbourg's Opera national du Rhin**, but also for her Nedda with **Finnish National Opera** in 2014. In Savonlinna she made a remarkable debut as Cio-Cio-San (Madama Butterfly) in the same summer.

Juntunen's concert repertoire highlights include Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Nights Dream

(Lucerne Festival with Vladimir Jurowski), Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, Strauss' Vier letzte Lieder (Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Leif Segerstam). Her performance of Brahms' Ein deutsches Requiem brought her debut with the Berliner Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Donald Runnicles.

Helena Juntunen's particular attachment to the music of her native country does not only show in numerous appearances in concerts with Finnish orchestras and conductors such as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Leif Segerstam, Osmo Vänskä, Mikko Franck and Hannu Lintu, but also in a number of world premieres of Finnish operas and recordings of Finnish music, such as complete recordings of Einojuhani Rautavaaras operas Aleksis Kivi and Auringon talo, for example.

During season 16-17 Juntunen sang Marie in Die Tote Stadt in Basel, Stabat Mater by Dvorak in Montpellier, Salomé in Strasbourg, Katia Kabanova in Nancy...

Her future engagement include Herbstsonata in FNO alongside Anne-Sofie von Otter and Erika Sunnegårdh, Antonia in the Tales of Hoffmann and Marie in Roberr Carsens acclaimed production if Wozzeck.

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