

**Anu Komsí, soprano**

Anu Komsí is one of Finland's foremost international singers, a coloratura soprano with a strong reputation on the world's concert and opera scenes. She is praised for her perfect musicianship, technical skills, expressive interpretations and vast repertoire that ranges from renaissance music to the most advanced contemporary scores. By commissioning and premiering new works for her voice type, she has helped to widen and enlarge its repertoire for the last 30 years, whilst also singing bel canto and presenting forgotten coloratura masterworks for today's public. In 2020, she was awarded the Madetoja prize by Finnish composer's society and was also a nominee for the Nordic Council's Music Prize. In 2021, she received the prestigious Erik Bergman Prize for her special achievements in performing and commissioning new vocal repertoire internationally.

Following the BBC Proms 2026 in Bristol and György Kurtág's *Kafka-Fragments op. 24* with Sakari Oramo, Anu Komsí will sing Kaija Saariaho's *Mirage* and Jean Sibelius' *Luonnotar* with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (conductor: Eva Ollikainen) at the Victoria Hall Geneva. Further concerts of the season 2026/27 will include Saariaho's *Saarikoski Songs* with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic (conductor: Chloe Dufresne) and songs by Heidi Sundblad-Halme with the Lahti Sinfonia (conductor: Sakari Oramo). She will also perform Alban Berg's *Symphonic pieces from the opera Lulu* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Centre London and *Lulu* in Berg's opera with the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne at the Kölner Philharmonie - both with Sakari Oramo.

Anu Komsí made her debut as an opera singer in 1991 in Ligeti's *Aventures & Nouvelles Aventures* at the Helsinki Festival. Internationally, she appeared at the Frankfurt Opera in 1993 as Olympia (*Hoffmann's Tales*). Her 70 opera roles contain several critically acclaimed performances of Zerbinetta, Lulu, Gilda, Norina, Queen of the Night, Salome, Susanna, Micaela, Rosalinde, Tiresias (Poulenc) and Mother-in-Law in Kaija Saariaho's *Innocence*. She sang the coloratura role of Catherine in the Finnish premiere of Giacomo Meyerbeer's *L'Etoile du Nord*, James Dillons *Philomela* (Casa da Música Porto), Peter Eötvös' *Lady Sarashina* (Polish National Opera) and Heinz Holliger's *Schneewittchen* (Theater Basel). John Zorn's *Machine de L'Etre* at the New York City Opera brought her the attribute "Pyrotechnic Grace". In 2026, she successfully premiered the new opera *Medusa* by Iain Bell at La Monnaie/De Munt Brussels.

George Benjamin dedicated the soprano role in his opera *Into the Little Hill* especially to Anu. Since the premiere in Paris 2006, she has performed this work in Europe and the USA already 50 times, and most recently at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and Wigmore Hall London in 2019. Eva's role in Karlheinz Stockhausen's opera *Donnerstag* from *Licht* at the Theater Basel was another critically acclaimed performance. Anu is the only singer ever to have performed all of Eva's massive role in this 6-hour opera. She has appeared at the Semperoper Dresden, Stuttgart State Opera, Berliner Festspiele, Wiener Festwochen, Salzburg and Lucerne Festivals, Opéra National de Paris and Lyon, Teatro La Scala Milan, Finnish National Opera and Lincoln Center Festival NYC i.a.. She premiered large works including Kaija Saariaho's *Saarikoski* (2013-2020) and *Leino Songs* (2000-2007), Jonathan Harvey's *White as Jasmine* (2000), Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Floof* (1988) and *Wing on Wing* (2004) and Unsuk Chin's *Cantatrix Sopranica* (2005).

Concerts let her to the Musikverein Vienna, Wiener Konzerthaus, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Royal Albert and Festival Hall, the Barbican Centre London, the Philharmonie de Paris, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Philharmonie Cologne, the Walt Disney Concert Hall LA, the Osaka Concert Hall, the Birmingham Symphony Hall, the Auditorio della Musica Rome, the Rudolfinum Prague, the Konserthuset Stockholm, the KKL Lucerne and the Musiikkitalo Helsinki. She has performed with the Vienna and Berlin Philharmonic, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the Gewandhausorchester, the BR Symphony Orchestra, La Scala Orchestra Milan, the Accademia di Santa Cecilia Rome, the New York Philharmonic, the LA Philharmonic, the Toronto, Tokyo and BBC Symphony Orchestras, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Czech Philharmonic, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Rotterdam Philharmonic, the Helsinki and Oslo Philharmonic, the Ensemble Intercontemporain, the Gulbenkian Orchestra Lisbon.

She has worked with conductors and directors such as Sir Roger Norrington, Sakari Oramo, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Alan Gilbert, Franz Welser-Möst, Heinz Holliger, Peter Eötvös, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Susana Malki, Hannu Lintu, Francois-Xavier Roth, Martyn Brabbins, Pierre Audi, Arturo Marelli, Lydia Steier, Christoph Loy, Achim Freyer and Claus Guth. A highlight was her collaboration with Christoph Waltz in Matthias Pintscher's *l'Espace Dernier*.

Anu has enjoyed a long partnership with pianist Pia Värrí, with whom she has released two albums: *O'Heart* (songs to Eino Leino poetry) and *Sumun Läpi* (vocal music with piano by Kaija Saariaho). György Kurtág's *Kafka Fragments* have been featured in her repertoire since 1988, first with Sakari Oramo (Ondine), and later also with violinists Andras Keller, Isabelle Faust, Minna Pensola and Patricia Kopatchinskaja. Her discography includes hundreds of recordings such as Mahler's Symphony No. 4 and B.A. Zimmermann's *Die Soldaten* and Gramophone Award winners Langgaard's Symphony No. 2, Nielsen's Symphony No. 3 and Saariaho's *Leino Songs*.

An important phase in Anu Komsí's career occurred in 2004-2018, when she was founder, Artistic Director and Managing Director of the West Coast Kokkola Opera company. Between 2006-2017, the company presented the Kokkola Opera summer festival. Anu was also director of Vivaldi's *La Verita*, Glanert's *Leviathan* and *Der Engel auf dem Schiff*, Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and Weill's *Der Silbersee*.

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Season 2026/27