

Sara Hershkowitz, soprano

*Sara Hershkowitz possesses a flexible, beautiful voice with huge presence – a wild, beautiful animal admires the magazine Opernwelt. The outstanding soprano is a native of Los Angeles, California, and fascinates the musical world with her enormous stage presence and wide range of repertoire. In 2020, she has been nominated by the Opernwelt Magazine for Singer of the Year the third time: for her interpretation of soprano 1 in Luigi Nono's *Al gran sole carico d'amore* at the Theater Basel. Earlier nominations include her portrayal of Zaide in the German Premiere of Mozart/Czernowin's *Zaide Adama* and for Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*.*

In 2019, she created the role of Claire Claremont in the world premiere of Michael Wertmueller's *Diodati. Unendlich* (musical direction: Titus Engel, staging: Lydia Steier) and sang Soprano 1 in Luigi Nono's *Al Gran Sole Carico D'Amore* (musical direction: Jonathan Stockhammer, staging: Sebastian Baumgarten) at Theater Basel to great acclaim.

As a principal artist at the Bremen Opera between 2007-2012, she performed such roles as Chief of Gepopo in Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*, Sophie in Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*, Governess in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*, and Konstanze in Mozart's *The Abduction of the Seraglio*. In 2017, she made her debut with the New Orleans Opera as Euridice in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* and fascinated as the four heroines Olympia/Antonia/Giulietta/Stella in Offenbach's *Les Contes D'Hoffmann* at the Opernhaus Wuppertal. Additional opera highlights include Zerbinetta in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Nordnorsk Opera og Symfonieorkester in Norway, the role of the Governess in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* at Teatro Comunale di Bologna and Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Autonoe in Henze's *The Bassarides* at Teatro dell' Opera di Roma, The Snow Owl in Philip Glass's *The Civil Wars*, with the Holland Festival, and Servillia in Gluck's *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Theater an der Wien.

Sara Hershkowitz thrilled audiences and critics alike with her own daring and controversial staging of Ligeti's *Mysteries of the Macabre* with the Noord Netherlands Orchestra in 2017, followed by further performances of this piece with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra at the Bergen International Festival in Norway as well as with the BBC Scottish Symphony in UK. In 2021, she sang György Ligeti's opera *Le Grand Macabre* at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam with the Radio Filharmonisch Orkest (conductor: James Gaffigan) to great acclaim. Recently, she made her debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in John Cage's *Européras*, sang Vivaldi's *Gloria* with the Detroit Symphony, Unsuik Chin's *Acrostic Word Play* at the Bergen International Festival, an evening of Alban Berg and Philip Herschkowitz lieder for ORF Radio in Wien (together with pianist Elisabeth Leonskaya), and Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Five Images After Sappho* with the London Philharmonia. In 2023, she made her debuts with the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover (conductor: David Stern) singing Cleopatra in J. A. Hasse's *Marc'Antonio e Cleopatra* and with the Gürzenich-Orchestra Cologne (conductor: Matthias Pintscher) performing Ligeti's *Mysteries of the Macabre* at the Kölner Philharmonie in celebration of the composer's 100th anniversary

A frequent collaborator with Paris-based baroque ensemble Opera Fuoco, Ms. Hershkowitz has performed the title role of J.C. Bach's *Zanaida*, at the Wiener Konzerthaus and the Leipzig Bach Festival, in addition to roles such as Arminda in *La Finta Giardinera*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*.

In 2023 Sara Hershkowitz will make her first appearance with the Amarillo Symphony with Samuel Barber's *Knoxville Summer of 1915* and bluegrass songs arranged by herself for orchestra and banjo.

Sara Hershkowitz has a B.A. in voice from the Manhattan School of Music, is an alumnus of the Academie Lyrique at Festival Aix-en-Provence and of the Salzburg Festspiele Young Singers Project. She resides in California. As a singer songwriter and a bluegrass/american/folk vocalist, Ms. Hershkowitz also performs under the name Sara Shiloh Rae together with her band, *Bluebird Junction*.

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