

Sarah Maria Sun, soprano

Sarah Maria Sun is known as one of the foremost and most extraordinary performers in the contemporary music scene. In addition to numerous songs, operas and oratorios, her repertoire currently includes more than 2000 compositions from the 20th and 21st centuries, including more than 400 world premieres. North German Radio (NDR) has dedicated portrait concerts to her in 2012, 2016 and 2018.

Her tremendous adaptability is demonstrated on a regular basis on the music-theater stage. She has appeared at the opera houses in Zurich, Basel, Dresden, Frankfurt, Munich, Dusseldorf, Stuttgart, Mannheim, Leipzig, Strasbourg, Luxembourg, Zagreb, and the Opéra Bastille and the Opéra Comique in Paris. In summer 2021, she made her debut at the Salzburg Festival in Luigi Nono's *Intolleranza 1960* with the Wiener Philharmoniker and Ingo Metzmacher in a new staging by Jan Lauwers. She shows her skill for haunting theatrical and musical interpretation time and again in the depiction of complex female figures. In particular, the monodramas *Yes / Will Yes* by Dieter Schnebel (Elbphilharmonie Hamburg), *Lohengrin* by Salvatore Sciarrino (Salzburg Easter Festival), and *Kolik* and *Queen of Hearts* by Jannik Giger, Leo Hoffmann and Benjamin von Bebbler (Gare du Nord Basel) are especially noteworthy. She was nominated as singer of the year by Opernwelt Magazine for the role of Elsa in Sciarrino's *Lohengrin* in 2017 and for the role of Gwen in Philip Venables' *4.48 Psychose* (Semperoper Dresden) in 2019.

She regularly performs as a soloist in concert halls and festivals such as the Suntory Hall Tokyo, the Muziekgebouw Amsterdam, the Philharmonie Luxembourg, the Tonhalle Zurich, the KKL Lucerne, the Auditorio Nacional Madrid, the Casa da Música Porto, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Berlin and Cologne Philharmonic, the Biennale Venice, the Arnold Schönberg Center Vienna and the festivals in Witten, Donaueschingen, Lucerne and Herrenhausen.

Sarah Maria Sun has performed with conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Kent Nagano, Thomas Hengelbrock, Susanna Mälkki, Peter Rundel, Heinz Holliger, Sylvain Cambreling as well as with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic, the WDR, NDR, BR, SWR, SR Radio Symphony Orchestras, the Dresden Philharmonic, the Antwerp and Tokyo Symphony Orchestras and ensembles such as Klangforum Wien, musikFabrik Köln, Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Mosaik, Ensemble Intercontemporain as well as the string quartets Diotima, Arditti, Minguet and Signum.

In the season 2024/25, Sarah Maria Sun is invited to sing concerts at the Grafenegg Festival (Nono's *La fabbrica illuminata*), the Festival Les Jardins Musicaux (Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins*, Ligeti's *Mysteries of the Macabre*), the Alte Oper Frankfurt (trio-recitals), the Konzerthaus Berlin with the Konzerthausorchester and Iván Fischer (Lieder by Weill), the Prinzregententheater Munich with the Munich Chamber Orchestra (Poppe's *Augen*, Berg's *Lulu-Suite*) as well as in Los Angeles and other Californian cities with the Camerata Pacifica (Schönberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* i. a.). She will also perform the world premiere of Rebecca Saunder's opera *Lash - Acts of Love* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, van Bebbler's *Queen of Hearts* at De Singel Antwerp, the world premiere of Sara Glojnarčić's *Guides to Reality* with the Kuss Quartett at the festival Wittener Tage für Neue Kammermusik and *Amopera* at the Wiener Konzerthaus with Klangforum Wien.

Sarah Maria Sun's discography includes more than 30 CDs, some of which have been awarded prizes. In 2017, four of her six new releases were nominated for the German Record Critics' Award. Recently, her latest and most contrasting CDs *Harawi* with songs by Olivier Messiaen and *Killer Instincts* presenting works by Tom Waits, Kurt Weill, Leonard Bernstein, Randy Newman, John Kander, Stephen Sondheim i.a. have been released on the label Mode Records. The recording „Les Espaces Électroacoustiques“ (Col Legno) received the German Record Critics' Award.

From 2007-2014, Sarah Maria Sun was the first soprano of the Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart, a chamber ensemble of seven singers that has been one of the world's leading pioneers of contemporary music for 30 years. She studied singing in Cologne and Stuttgart and most importantly worked with Darinka Segota and Tanja Ariane Baumgartner. She regularly gives masterclasses for vocal music from the 20th and 21st centuries; for instance, at universities and conservatoires in Oslo, Harvard, Chicago, Stockholm, Zurich, Rostock, Moscow, Dresden, and Berlin. Between 2018-2022, she worked as a guest professor, tutor and lecturer at the music universities of Hannover, Graz and Lucerne. She is a professor for Contemporary Music and Open Creation at the Basel Academy of Music, Switzerland.