



Kai Rüütel-Pajula Mezzo-soprano



Estonian mezzo-soprano Kai Rüütel-Pajula has appeared to great critical acclaim on the stages of the Royal Opera House, Dutch National Opera, Theater an der Wien, Teatro Real, Opera Vlaanderen, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Scottish Opera, Théâtre du Capitole Toulouse, and Dallas Opera. A consummate singer and actress, she has collaborated with directors such as Robert Carsen, Laurent Pelly, Keith Warner and Calixto Beito.

Recent and upcoming engagements include her return to the Opéra National de Lyon as Angel in Calixto Beito's staged production of Mendelssohn *Elijah*; her debut at the Grand Théâtre de Genève as Sonyetka *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* and at the Opéra National de Lyon as Judith in Andriy Zholdak's innovative new interpretation of *Bluebeard's Castle*; and *Die Wirtstochter* in Christof Loy's new production of *Königskinder* at the Dutch National Opera. Her concert appearances include Beethoven Symphony No.9 with Trondheim Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Han-Na Chang.

Contact:

Maria Mot (Director MWA)

Number: +447747487997

Email:

maria@mwamanagement.com

Charlotte Firth (Artists Manager)

Number: +447827028791

Email:

charlotte@mwamanagement.com

Richard Sharman (Administrator)

Number: +447593454903

Email:

richard@mwamanagement.com

Further successes include her debut at Theater Dortmund as Fricka *Die Walküre*; at Opéra national de Paris as Wellgunde *Götterdämmerung* and Second Lady in a new production of *Die Zauberflöte*; a return to the Teatro Real as Second Norn *Götterdämmerung*; Stravinsky *Pulcinella* with the MDR Rundfunkchor under the baton of Dennis Russel Davies; a new production of *Der Schmied von Gent* at Vlaamse Opera where she performed the lead female role, Smee's wife; Emilia *Otello* with Royal Opera House on tour to Japan; Waltraute *Die Walküre* at Dutch National Opera; Lyubasha at Estonian National Opera; her return to Theater an der Wien alongside Christian Gerhaher in a staged production of Mendelssohn *Elijah*; a highly anticipated operatic debut on home ground in the title role of *Carmen* at Estonian National Opera; returns to Royal Opera House as Waltraute *Die Walküre*; Meg Page *Falstaff* and Blanche *The Gambler* - both new productions presented by Opera Vlaanderen, and Zweite Dame *Die Zauberflöte* at Theater an der Wien. Other highlights include her US operatic debut as Olga *Eugene Onegin* with Dallas Opera, Mary *Der fliegende Holländer* at Teatro Real; Emilia in new productions of *Otello* at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Opera Vlaanderen; the world premiere of *Infinite Now* by American-Israeli composer Chaya Czernowin at Opera Vlaanderen; Meg Page *Falstaff*, Wellgunde *Der Ring des Nibelungen*; and as Marchesa Malibea *Il Viaggio a Reims* in a special gala performance - all at Royal Opera House Covent Garden; Hänsel *Hänsel und Gretel* at Scottish Opera, Blanche *The Gambler* at De Nederlandse Opera, Sonyetka *Lady Macbeth from the Mtsensk District* at Opera Vlaanderen; Siegrune *Die Walküre* at Gran Teatre del Liceu; Anina *Der Rosenkavalier* at Dutch National Opera, Flowermaiden and Esquire *Parsifal* at Teatro Real; Kate Julian Owen *Wingrave* at Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse; and Nefertiti in Glass' *Akhnaten* at Opera Vlaanderen.

Recent concert and recital performances include performances of Elgar *The Dream of Gerontius* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vasily Petrenko, and at The Three Choirs Festival Mahler *Rückert-Lieder* with Vlaamse Opera; her Estonian recital debut, accompanied by Roger Vignoles; her US debut with the St Louis Symphony Orchestra singing Mozart *Requiem*; a recital with Roger Vignoles at Oxford Lieder; 'Stars of Operalia' gala at the Birgitta Festival; an opera gala concert with Simon O'Neill at the Mumbai National Center of Performing Arts; *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra; Beethoven's Symphony No.9 with the Residentie Orchestra of the Netherlands; Mahler Rückert Lieder at the Cadogan Hall; Beethoven *Mass in C* with City of Birmingham



Symphony and Philharmonia orchestras; Zemlinsky *Sechs Gesänge* at Philharmonie Berlin; and gala concerts in Latvia, the Czech Republic and with the RTE Orchestra and John Wilson.

Rüütel-Pajula studied at the Georg Ots Music School in Tallinn, the Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague and the Dutch National Opera Academy. In 2009 Rüütel became a member of the prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, making her debut as Venerable Lady in *The Gambler* and covering the role of Blanche. Her roles for the company included Hänsel *Hänsel und Gretel*, Rosette *Manon* and Flora *La traviata* (also performed on tour in Japan), Second Lady *Die Zauberflöte* conducted by Sir Colin Davis, and Dorothee *Cendrillon*. She covered Madame Dangeville *Adriana Lecouvreur*, Charlotte *Werther* and Dunyasha *The Tsar's Bride*.

Kai Rüütel-Pajula is represented by MWA Management worldwide.
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