



Kai Rüütel-Pajula Mezzo-soprano



Estonian mezzo-soprano Kai Rüütel-Pajula has appeared to critical acclaim on the stages of the Royal Ballet and Opera, English National Opera, 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 notable directors such as Robert Carsen, Laurent Pelly, Keith Warner and Calixto Beito.

Her 2024/25 engagements include her company and role debut as Polina *Queen of Spades* at Hamburg State Opera; Suzuki *Madama Butterfly* at Teatro Municipal de Santiago de Chile; and a return to the role as Fricka *Die Walküre* at Theatre Dortmund. On the concert platform she returns to Tallinn Chamber Orchestra to sing Haydn *Harmonie-messe* and Mozart *Vesperae solennes*.

Last season Rüütel returned to Opéra National de Lyon as the Angel in Calixto Beito's staged production of Mendelssohn *Elijah* and to Grand Théâtre de Genève as Sonyetka *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*. She also made her debut as Waltraute *Götterdämmerung* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Vladimir Jurowski and sang Mahler's Symphony no.2 with the Ulster Orchestra and Beethoven *Symphony No.9* with Trondheim Symphony Orchestra.

Recent successes include her debut as Judith *Bluebeard's Castle* at Opera Lyon; Fricka *Die Walküre* at Theater Dortmund; Wellgunde *Götterdämmerung* and Second Lady in a new production of *Die Zauberflöte* at Opéra national de Paris; Smee's wife *Der Schmied von Gent*, Sonjetka *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, Emilia *Otello* and Nefertiti *Akhnaten*, all at Vlaamse Opera; a return to Teatro Real as Second Norn *Götterdämmerung*; Emilia *Otello* with Royal Ballet and Opera on tour to Japan; Waltraute *Die Walküre* at Dutch National Opera; Lyubasha *The Tsar's Bride* and the Title role *Carmen*, both at Estonian National Opera; her return to Theater an der Wien alongside Christian Gerhaher in a staged production of Mendelssohn *Elijah*; returns to Royal Ballet and Opera 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* and Flowermaiden/*Esquire Parsifal* at Teatro Real; Emilia in new productions of *Otello* at Royal Ballet and Opera and Opera Vlaanderen; the world premiere of *Infinite Now* by American-Israeli composer Chaya Czernowin at Opera Vlaanderen; Hänsel *Hänsel und Gretel* at Scottish Opera, Blanche *The Gambler* at De Nederlandse Opera; Siegrune *Die Walküre* at Gran Teatre del Liceu; Anina *Der Rosenkavalier* at Dutch National Opera and Kate Julian Owen *Wingrave* at Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse.

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; Stravinsky *Pulcinella* with the MDR Rundfunkchor under the baton of Dennis Russel Davies; 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

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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 Gasange* 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, the Dutch National Opera Academy and was Jette Parker Young Artist from 2009 to 2011.

Kai Rüütel-Pajula is represented by MWA Management worldwide.
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