

Marita Sølberg
Soprano



After winning the Queen Sonja Competition in 2001, Arendalsposten said of Norwegian soprano Marita Sølberg, "It is a voice of almost mystic dimensions, great and fully grown and with a veil of the unspoken, as if it is brought forth from a deep secret source. Marita Sølberg has the potential to be one of our most shining stars."

Ms. Sølberg studied at Trøndelag Music Conservatory and the Norwegian Academy of Music before graduating from the Norwegian Academy for Operatic Arts. She made her professional debut in 2002 at the Norwegian National Opera as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, and since then has served as a principal singer for both Württembergische Staatstheater Stuttgart and Norwegian National Opera, amongst other engagements. In addition to the Queen Sonja Competition, she also has been awarded a Ruud-Wallenberg stipend, the Belvedere Singing Competition, and in 2011 she was granted the Tom Wilhelmsens Award. In 2012 she was awarded the highest music prize in Norway, "The Music Critics' Prize", for her performance of Mimi in *La Bohème* at Norwegian National Opera.

Ms. Sølberg is currently slated to join the roster of the Metropolitan Opera in a future production. Recent engagements include her house debut at Royal Opera Covent Garden as Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Micaëla in *Carmen* at Minnesota Opera; Pamina in *Zauberflöte* at Los Angeles Opera; Mimi in *La Bohème* at Wiener Staatsoper; Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Solveig in *Peer Gynt*, Liù in *Turandot*, Mimi in *La Bohème* and Antonia in *Les Contes d'Hoffman* at Norwegian National Opera; the Countess in *Le Nozze de Figaro* at Teatro La Fenice; *St. Matthew's Passion* on tour, with Minkowski conducting; the role of Kathrine Sigismund in *The Fourth Watch of the Night*, at both Norwegian National Opera and Savonlinna Opera Festival; *Giulietta in I Capuleti e i Montecchi* at Norwegian National Opera; Micaëla in *Carmen*; *Drusilla and Virtù in L'Incoronazione di Poppea* at the Norwegian National Opera; *Solveig in Grieg's Peer Gynt* with the conductor Marc Minkowski; *Cleopatra in Giulio Cesare* in Beaune with the conductor Eduardo López Banzo; concerts with music by Henry Purcell, Handel and Joseph Haydn at the Salzburg Festival with the conductor Marc Minkowski; *Pergolesi's Stabat Mater* and *Stravinsky's Pulcinella* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra; *Fauré's Requiem* with the conductor Lawrence Renes; *Vivaldi's Nulla in mondo pax sincera* with the Israel Camerata; and *Female Chorus in Britten's Rape of Lucretia*, *Countess in Le Nozze di Figaro*, and *Pamina in Die Zauberflöte* at Norwegian National Opera. She also returned to the Staatsoper Stuttgart for *Celia in Lucio Silla*, and recorded Handel's *Brockes Passion* with the conductor Peter Neumann.

In 2009 Sølberg performed the role of Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Staatsoper Stuttgart, Handel's *Messiah* in Moscow with the conductor Peter Neumann, and Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and the conductor Raphael Frühbeck de Burgos. Engagements the autumn of 2008 included Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Gretel in *Hänsel und Gretel* and the title role in *Zaide* at the Staatsoper Stuttgart, and Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* with the conductor Zubin Mehta. She has also sung at a gala concert at the Norwegian National Opera, and excerpts from Handel's *Il Trionfo del tempo e del disinganno* with the conductor Rinaldo Alessandrini.

In 2006-2008 while she was a principal singer at the Staatsoper Stuttgart, other engagements brought her to Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona, Teatro Real Madrid, Komische Oper Berlin and Norwegian National Opera. Her roles have included Micaëla in *Carmen*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Servilia in *La Clemenza di Tito*, the title role in *Zaide*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Celia in *Lucio Silla*, Gretel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Marzelline in *Fidelio*, Charmion in *Massenet's Cléopâtre*, and the Angel in *Messiaen's Saint Francois D'Assise*.

Ms. Sølberg has worked with conductors such as Marc Minkowski, Zubin Mehta, Michel Plasson, Rinaldo Alessandrini, Manfred Honeck, Neeme Järvi, Phillip Herreweghe, Michael Hofstetter, Enrique Mazzola, Bruno Weil, Andreas Spering, Olaf Henzold, Konrad Junghänel, Miquel Ortega, Peter Neumann, Raphael Frühbeck de Burgos, Christoph König, Roman Brogli-Sacher and Shao-Chia Lü.

Ms. Sølberg has recorded the role of Solveig in Grieg's *Peer Gynt* for the record label BIS (released in June 2005) and has sung it on numerous occasions in Scandinavia as well as in Barcelona, Madrid, Stuttgart, St. Petersburg and on tour in the US. In June 2006 she sang the role with the Berliner Philharmoniker and the conductor Neeme Järvi. The concert was transmitted live on German radio and television.