Miina-Liisa Värelä  
soprano

Soprano Miina-Liisa Värelä has firmly established her presence on the operatic landscape through a number of recent highly acclaimed debuts including as Senta/​*Der fliegende Holländer* (Finnish National Opera), as Färberin/​*Die Frau one Schatten* (Landestheater Linz), as Brünnhilde in performances of the condensed ​*Ring an einem Abend* on tour throughout Germany and as Ariadne auf Naxos (Helsinki’s Alexander Theater).  As Sieglinde in the Odense Symfoniorkester’s staged Ring Cycle under Alexander Vedernikov, Värelä was hailed as an exciting emerging talent, she made a sensational debut as Strauss’ *Elektra* in a return to Landestheater Linz and sang her first Ortrud in Wagner’s *Lohengrin* last season in a highly-acclaimed new staging at Salzburg’s Felsenreitschule.

Two major highlights of Värelä’s 2019/20 season focused on the music of Richard Strauss: her return to Finnish National Opera in the title role of Katie Mitchell’s production of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, conducted by Music Director Hannu Lintu and her debut at the Verbier Festival as Färberin in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, conducted by Valery Gergiev.

Värelä returns to Finnish National Opera twice in the current season as part of the cast of *Covid fan tutte*, a reimagined take on the Mozart classic, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen, and as Sieglinde in their new production of *Die Walküre* under Susanna Mälkki.  Continuing the expansion of her Wagnerian repertoire, Miina-Liisa makes her Glyndebourne Festival debut in the title role of *Tristan und Isolde*, under Robin Ticciati.On the concert platform, Värelä sings Beethoven’s Symphony No.9 with the Helsinki Philharmonic under Susanna Mälkki, as well as the Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde* and Boulanger’s *Faust et Hélène* for Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Hannu Lintu.In Shostakovich’s Symphony No.14, she debuts with both HR Sinfonieorchester Frankfurt under Klaus Mäkelä and l’Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne under Hannu Lintu.

On the concert platform, Miina-Liisa Värelä has performed Schoenberg’s *Gurre-Lieder* in Aarhus, Mahler’s Symphony No.2 with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Ingo Metzmacher, Mahler’s Symphony No.4 with Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra and Hannu Lintu, Shostakovich’s Symphony No.14 with Oulu Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as Strauss’ *Vier letzte Lieder* with Odense Symphony Orchestra under Hans Graf.

A native of Finland, Värelä is a graduate of Helsinki’s renowned Sibelius Academy, has taken prizes in numerous competitions including at Lappeenranta and Belvedere, and currently resides in Berlin.