Karita Mattila

Soprano

Last season Karita Mattila celebrated the 40th anniversary of her professional stage debut; and the lyrical beauty of her voice and her innate sense of theatre continue to set her apart as one of the most sought-after operatic sopranos in the world today.

This season, she returns to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in a new role - Klytämnestra (*Elektra*) in Christof Loy’s new production, conducted by Antonio Pappano; to Opéra National de Paris where she reprises her acclaimed portrayal of Emily Marty in *Věc Makropulos* under Susanna Mälkki; and as Kostelnička (*Jenufa*) making her belated debut at Teatro dell’Opera di Roma under Juraj Valčuha. And back home in Finland, she makes her operatic debut at the Savonlinna Festival as Ortrud (*Lohengrin*).

New roles have dominated Mattila’s recent seasons including acclaimed performances last season as Herodias (*Salome*) in Lydia Steier’s new production for Opéra National de Paris under Simone Young; for the Canadian Opera Company under Johannes Debus; and for Houston Grand Opera under Keri-Lynn Wilson in Francisco Negrin’s production; and she made her anticipated debut as Strauss’ Klytämnestra (*Elektra*) at the Deutsche Opera, Berlin. Other recent outstanding performances include a triumphant return to the Salzburg Festival as La zia principessa (*Suor Angelica*) in Christof Loy’s new staging of *Il trittico* and conducted by Franz Welser-Möst; Poulenc’s *La* *voix humaine* staged especially for her by Finnish National Opera under Dalia Stasevaska, and in Glaus Guth’s award-winning production of *Jenůfa* for The Royal Opera, Covent Garden – all of which were internationally streamed and broadcast

In addition to two Grammy Awards for Best Opera Recording – *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* under Sir George Solti (1998) and *Jenůfa* under Bernard Haitink (2004) – she has many recordings to her credit, highlights of which include Strauss’ *Vier letzte Lieder* under Claudio Abbado (Deutsche Grammophon); and her 40th birthday concert in front of an audience of 12,000 in Helsinki (Ondine).

Her experience is now highly sought after and recent invitations to give masterclasses include the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, Lauluakatemia, Helsinki and The Birgit Nilsson Museum; and in 2024 at Wigmore Hall in collaboration with the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and Keval Shah.

Mattila has won numerous awards throughout a distinguished career and received the Order of the Lion of Finland, First Class Commander in 2020. Her other notable awards include Musical America’s Musician of the Year and the Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres; and in the 2016 Royal Philharmonic Society Award for her “unforgettable incarnations of both Kostelnička and Emilia Marty”.

A native of Finland, Mattila trained at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki with Liisa Linko-Malmio and subsequently with Vera Rózsa with whom she studied for almost 20 years.