Miina-Liisa Värelä

Soprano

Making her debut at 2025 Bayreuther Festspiele as Ortrud (*Lohengrin*) “Miina-Liisa Värelä was the standout voice of this performance — her vocal power seems limitless. Her performance full of energy and contrast, and her stage presence was intensely dramatic.”
—Resmusica.

Building a strong profile in the German dramatic repertoire, Miina-Liisa Värelä is a sought-after interpreter of Die Färberin (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*), a role she performed most recently in landmark new productions at Festspielhaus Baden-Baden under Kirill Petrenko and Berliner Philharmoniker, and at Semperoper Dresden under Christian Thielemann. Now established as a leading Wagnerian, Värelä has also garnered tremendous acclaim as Isolde (*Tristan und Isolde*) with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra under Gustavo Dudamel, and at both Glyndebourne Festival Opera and BBC Proms under Robin Ticciati.

Värelä’s 2025/26 season is no less impressive. It includes her anticipated debut as Brünnhilde (*Die Walküre*) first in concert with Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia under Daniel Harding in Rome, before bringing the role to the stage in Tobias Kratzer’s new production at Bayerische Staatsoper under Vladimir Jurowski, which will include the full *Ring Cycle* in the coming seasons. She also reprises Senta (*Der Fliegende Holländer*) at Opéra de Rouen in a new staging by Marie-Eve Signeyrole, returns to Oper Frankfurt as Isolde under Thomas Guggeis, and continues her celebrated new association with Bayreuther Festspiele as Kundry (*Parsifal*) under Pablo Heras-Casado. In concert, she joins Orchestre de Paris and Daniel Harding as Sieglinde, and London Philharmonic Orchestra and Robin Ticciati in Sibelius’ *Kullervo*.

Operatic triumphs of recent seasons include her debut as Leonore (*Fidelio*) with Canadian Opera Company under Johannes Debus, the title role in Ariadne auf Naxos and Ortrud (*Lohengrin*) at Gran Teatre del Liceu under Josep Pons, *Elektra* at Landestheater Linz and Die Färbering at Bayerische Staatsoper, Oper Frankfurt and at the Verbier Festival.  At Finnish National Opera, where she debuted as Turandot, she recently paid tribute to Aulis Sallinen as Anna in a new production of *Ratsumies* under Hannu Lintu, and she sang her first Tosca on the stage of the Savonlinna Festival, conducted by Lorenzo Passerini.

A native of Finland, Värelä is a graduate of the esteemed Sibelius Academy and a laureate of competitions including Lappeenranta and Belvedere. She is a regular presence on the concert platform with a repertoire including works like Shostakovich, Symphony No.14, Wagner, Wesendonck Lieder and Strauss, Vier letzte Lieder, marking her as a soprano of rare artistry and formidable presence.