

Heli Veskus

Heli Veskus graduated from the Estonian Academy of Music in 1997 and from the Sibelius Academy in 2010. In 1998, Heli Veskus was the finalist of *Con Brio* competition. She debuted at the Estonian National Opera as Donna Elvira (Mozart's *Don Giovanni*) in 1999 and from 2001 until 2023 worked as the principal soloist of the house.

Her repertoire includes over fifty various roles from operettas to the heroines of Mozart, Puccini, Verdi and Wagner etc., the most important including Senta (*Der fliegende Holländer*), Isolde (*Tristan und Isolde*), Elisabeth and Venus (*Tannhäuser*), Manon (*Manon Lescaut*), Minnie (*La fanciulla del West*, stage dir. José Cura), Mimi (*La bohème*) and Tosca (*Tosca*); Aida (*Aida*), Desdemona (*Otello*), Leonora (*Il trovatore*) and Amelia (*Un ballo in maschera*); Tatyana in Tchaikovsky's (*Eugene Onegin*), The Lady in Hindemith's (*Cardillac*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*) and Countess Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Agathe (*Der Freischütz*), Micaëla (*Carmen*); Nedda (*Pagliacci*), Barbara (Tubin's *Barbara von Tisenhusen*), Helmwig (*Die Walküre*, Finnish National Opera) etc.

The highlights of her concert appearance include Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, Max Bruch's *Moses*, Wagner's *Wesendonk Lieder*, Berg's *Sieben Früher Lieder*, Beethoven's *Symphony No.9*.

She also passionately devotes herself to Lied Recitals.

In 2003, Heli Veskus received the *Harjumaa Theatre Prize*, in 2004 the *Estonian Theatre Award* for the title role in Tubin's *Barbara von Tisenhusen*, in 2008 the *Georg Ots Prize*, in 2016 the SEB Audience Award and in 2017 the *Annual Estonian Theatre Award* for the psychological and musically detailed interpretations of Aida and Senta in Verdi's *Aida* and Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*. She is also the winner of the scholarship of the *Estonian Richard Wagner Society* (2005).

Aside of her singing career, she is teaching as a senior lecturer at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theater and as a voice teacher at the Tallinn College of Music and Ballet – MUBA.