

# Lachenmann Music

## Mária Celeng, soprano

Mária Celeng captivates audiences with her radiant tone, precise technique and expressive interpretations. Her repertoire ranges from Baroque masterpieces through classical and Romantic opera roles to modern and rarely performed works, with each role brought to life through her distinctive musical voice and dramatic sensitivity. Celeng impresses with a rare combination of vocal brilliance, dramatic presence and artistic versatility. Whether as Pamina, Musetta or the First Lady – her performance is characterised by intense musicality, emotional depth and an unshakeable stage presence.

The soprano Mária Celeng began her 2025/2026 season as the First Lady in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz. This was followed by performances at the same venue as Micaëla in Bizet's *Carmen* and as Musetta in Puccini's *La Bohème*. She also sang the role of Frau Fluth in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

During the 2023/24 season, she also appeared as Micaëla in Bizet's *Carmen* at the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz. From 2017 to 2025, she was a member of the ensemble there and sang numerous major soprano roles in recent seasons, including *Fiordiligi* (*Così fan tutte*), *Susanna* (*Le nozze di Figaro*), *Musetta* and *Mimì* (*La Bohème*), *Pamina* and the *First Lady* (*The Magic Flute*), *Gretel* (*Hansel and Gretel*), *Lucile Desmoulins* (*Danton's Death*), *Luise* (*The Young Lord*) and *Baroness Freimann* (*The Poacher*). She also portrayed *Giulietta* in the new production of *Offenbach's The Tales of Hoffmann* (directed by Stefano Poda, conducted by Anthony Bramall), *Ann Trulove* in *Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress* (directed by Adam Cooper), *Donna Elvira* (*Don Giovanni*), *Tatiana* (*Eugene Onegin*), *Anita* (*Jonny Plays*) and the title role in *Verdi's Luisa Miller*.

Celeng made her debut at major opera houses such as *La Scala* in Milan, where she sang *Drusilla* in *Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea* under the baton of *Rinaldo Alessandrini*. She was a member of the *Salzburg Festival's Young Singers Project* and the *Bavarian State Opera's Opera Studio*. During this time, she worked with conductors such as *Antonio Pappano* (*Don Carlos, Salzburg Festival*) and *Franz Welser-Möst* (*Salzburg Festival*).

In 2017, she made her debut as *Despina* (*Così fan tutte*) at the *Opéra National de Paris* under the musical direction of *Philippe Jordan*. A year later, she sang the roles of *Amore* and *Valetto* in *Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea* at the *Staatsoper Unter den Linden* under the baton of *Diego Fasolis*. In the same year, she appeared as *Annina* in *Strauss's Eine Nacht in Venedig* at the *Royal Opera House Muscat* under the baton of *Daniele Rustioni*.

At the start of her career, she devoted herself intensively to the Baroque repertoire. She sang the role of *Araspe* in *Hasse's Didone abbandonata* at the *Château de Versailles* under the baton of *Michael Hofstetter*. This production was released on CD by *Naxos Records*.

At the invitation of *Rolando Villazón*, she was due to make her debut at the *Salzburg Festival* in 2021 as *Celidora* in *Mozart's L'oca del Cairo* under the baton of *Robin Ticciati*, but this was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Even during her studies, Mária Celeng devoted herself intensively to the concert and oratorio repertoire. She frequently sang the soprano part – particularly at *Müpa Budapest* – and collaborated with renowned Hungarian musicians such as *Zoltán Kocsis* (*Haydn's Nelson Mass*), *Ádám Fischer* (*Haydn's The Creation*) and *János Kovács* (*Debussy's Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien*).

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Mária Celeng is a regular guest at the Hungarian State Opera and returned there in the 2023/24 season as Musetta (La Bohème). She also appeared once again at Müpa Budapest as the soprano soloist in Rossini's Mass.

She completed her bachelor's degree at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music and her master's degree at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich and the August Everding Theatre Academy.

She has been a finalist and prize-winner at major international competitions such as Neue Stimmen, Cardiff Singer of the World and the Francisco Viñas Competition. In 2014, she received the prestigious Munich Opera Festival Prize and was awarded the Prima Primmissima Junior Prize in Budapest in the same year. Also in 2014, she was voted 'Singer of the Year' by the Abendzeitung.