KANTTILA MANAGEMENT



ARTIST
DOSSIER

BIOGRAPHY · CV

Erica Back

Lyric mezzo-soprano

Biography

Erica Back



Finnish lyric mezzo-soprano Erica Back is an Oslo-based freelance artist whose repertoire spans early Baroque to contemporary music. From 2019 to 2023, she was a member of the opera ensemble at Oldenburgisches Staatstheater, following a year in the theatre's opera studio. Her roles there included Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Concepción in *L'heure espagnole*, Lola in *Cavalleria rusticana* and the Stewardess in *Flight*.

As a guest artist, Ms. Back has performed with Finnish National Opera, the Savonlinna Opera Festival, Tampere Opera and Ulriksdal Palace Theatre, Confidencen, in Stockholm. Early music remains a substantial part of her work. Her engagements in 2026 include Venere in Monteverdi's *Il ballo delle ingrate* with Finnish National Opera and the Finnish Baroque Orchestra, following Alcina in Francesca Caccini's *La liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina* in 2024. Earlier roles include Ruggiero in Handel's *Alcina* at Vaasa Baroque, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* and Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* at Finnish National Opera, and Siebel in *Faust* at Savonlinna.

Contemporary Nordic opera is another thread in her career. She sang Mother Sofia in Uljas Pulkkis's *Isoviha* at the Ilmajoki Music Festival in 2025 and 2026, and the title role in J. Mattsson's *Katrina* on Åland in 2024 and 2025. Her repertoire also includes Frida Kahlo in Kalevi Aho's *Frida y Diego*, Elisa in Jan Sandström's *Elisa och fantasin* and Serafina Suomi in Olli Kortekangas's *Veljeni vartija*.

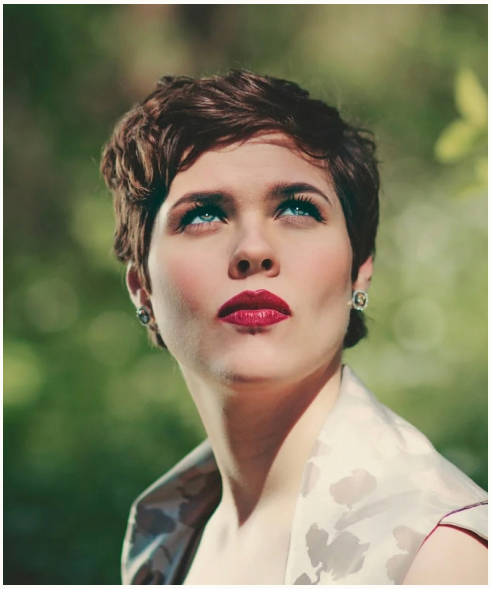
Ms. Back is equally active on the concert stage, having appeared as a soloist with the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, Vaasa City Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Lapland. Her concert repertoire includes Berlioz's *Les nuits d'été*, Berg's *Sieben frühe Lieder*, Respighi's *Il tramonto* and sacred works by Bach, Mozart, Respighi and Rossini. A working grant from the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland for 2024–2026 supports her research into art songs by women composers and norm-critical approaches to operatic interpretation.

A graduate of the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, where she completed her Master of Music with Monica Groop in 2016, Ms. Back also studied in Piteå and Kokkola. Her teachers include Christiane Iven, Emma Rönnlund and Synnöve Dellquist, and her further training includes masterclasses with Emma Kirkby, Francisco Araiza, Julia Hamari and Peter Mattei. She received the Lied Prize at the Wilhelm Stenhammar competition in 2022. Earlier distinctions include prizes at the Lappeenranta, International Sibelius and Kangasniemi singing competitions, and awards from the Mozarteum Summer Academy and Caj Ehrstedt Foundation.

Curriculum vitae

Erica Back

LYRIC MEZZO-SOPRANO



NATIONALITY Finland

LANGUAGES Swedish · English · Norwegian · Finnish · German

BASED IN Oslo, Norway

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019–2023 Oldenburgisches Staatstheater (former)

SELECTED HOUSES AND FESTIVALS

Finnish National Opera (FI) · Tampere Opera (FI) · Savonlinna Opera Festival (FI) · Ulriksdal Palace Theatre Confidencen (SWE) · Vaasa Baroque (FI)

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Venere	Il ballo delle ingrate *C. Monteverdi*	Finnish National Opera / Finnish Baroque Orchestra	2026
Mother Sofia	Isoviha (Russian occupation of Finland) *U. Pulkkis*	Ilmajoki Music Festival (FIN)	2026 2025
Katrina	Katrina *J. Mattsson*	Kulturföreningen Katrina (Åland Islands, FIN)	2025 2024
Alcina	La Liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola d'Alcina *F. Caccini*	Finnish National Opera / Finnish Baroque Orchestra	2024
Stewardess	Flight *J. Dove*	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2023
Octavian	Der Rosenkavalier *R. Strauss*	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2023
Wellgunde	Götterdämmerung *R. Wagner*	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2022
Lola	Cavalleria Rusticana *P. Mascagni*	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2022

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Kuchtik (The Kitchen Boy)	Rusalka *Dvořák*	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2022
Hänsel	Hänsel und Gretel *E. Humperdinck*	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2022 2021
Concepción	Die Spanische Stunde (L'heure espagnol) *M. Ravel*	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2022 2021
La Ciesca	Gianni Schicchi *G. Puccini*	Oldb. Staatsheater	2021
3. Elfe	Rusalka *Dvořák*	Oldb. Staatstheater	2020
Cupid	Venus and Adonis *J. Blow*	Oldb. Staatstheater	2020 2019
2nd Woman	Dido and Aeneas *H. Purcell*	Oldb. Staatstheater	2020 2019
Annio	La clemenza di Tito *W. A. Mozart*	Oldb. Staatstheater	2020 2019
Cupido	Orpheus in der Unterwelt *J. Offenbach*	Oldb. Staatsthetaer	2019
Mrs Jade Boucher	Dead Man Walking *J. Heggie*	Oldb. Staatstheater	2019

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Alisa	Lucia di Lammermoor *G. Donizetti*	Oldb. Staatstheater	2019
Siebel	Faust *Ch. Gounod*	Savonlinna Opera Festival	2018
Dorabella	Così fan tutte *W. A. Mozart*	Finnish National Opera Confidencen, Stockholm	2018 2016 2015
Serafina Suomi	My Brother's Keeper (Veljeni vartija) *O. Kortekangas*	Tampere Opera	2018
Ruggiero	Alcina *G. F. Händel*	Vaasa Baroque (FIN)	2017
Cherubino	Le nozze di Figaro *W. A. Mozart*	Finnish National Opera	2017
Orlofsky	Die Fledermaus *J. Strauss*	Finnish National Opera	2017 2016
2. Dame	Die Zauberflöte (in Finnish) *W. A. Mozart*	Finnish National Opera	2017 2016
L'enfant	L'enfant et les sortilèges *M. Ravel*	Sibelius Academy Opera	2015
Marchesa Melibea	Il viaggio a Reims *G. Rossini*	Sibelius Academy Opera	2015

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Frida Kahlo	Frida y Diego *K. Aho*	Sibelius Academy Opera	2014
Elisa	Elisa och fantasin *J. Sandström*	Estrad Norr (SWE)	2012 2011

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education & distinctions

2025–	Private voice studies Åshild Kyvik Bauge
2016–2023	Private voice studies Christiane Iven
2016	Master of Music in opera Sibelius-Academy /Helsinki · Monica Groop
2013	Bachelor of Music University of Music / Piteå (SWE) · Synnöve Dellquist / Emma Rönnlund

Masterclasses

2016	Christiane Iven Mozarteum Summer Academy
2014	Julia Hamari, Francisco Araiza, Cornelius Hauptmann Sankt Goar Music Festival and Academy
2013	Helena Döse, Rudolph Piernay Helena Döse Masterclass, Kungälv (SWE)
2011	Peter Mattei Piteå Summer Academy

Awards & competitions

2022	Wilhelm Stenhammar Singing Competition (Winner of the Lied Prize) Norrköping, Sweden

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education & distinctions

Awards & competitions

2016	International Mozarteum Summer Academy (Grant and Concert Prize) Salzburg, Austria