

KANTTILA MANAGEMENT

ARTIST
DOSSIER

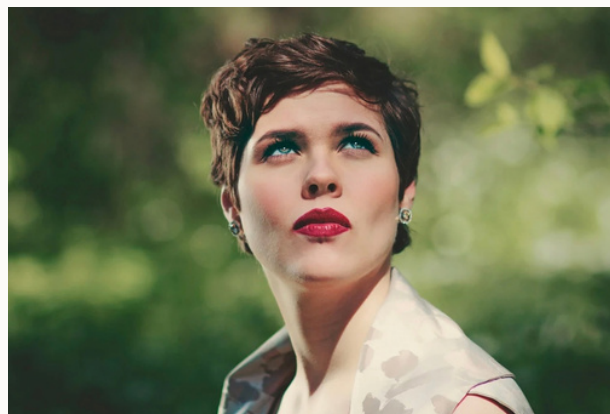
BIOGRAPHY • CV

Erica Back

Mezzo-Soprano

Biography

Erica Back



Mezzo-soprano Erica Back is an Oslo-based freelance artist whose repertoire spans from 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 theater's opera studio. As a guest artist, Ms. Back has performed with Finnish National Opera, Savonlinna Opera Festival, Tampere Opera, and at the Ulriksdal Palace Theatre in Stockholm, among others.

A graduate of the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki (Master of Music, 2016), Ms. Back also studied at the University of Music in Piteå and the Conservatory of Music in Kokkola. Her most influential mentors have included Monica Groop, Christiane Iven, Emma Rönnlund, and Synnöve Dellquist. She has also participated in masterclasses with Emma Kirkby, Francisco Araiza, Julia Hamari, and Peter Mattei.

Recent roles at Oldenburgisches Staatstheater have included Octavian (Der Rosenkavalier), Hänsel (Hänsel und Gretel), Concepción (L'heure espagnole), Lola (Cavalleria Rusticana), and Stewardess (Flight). Other notable appearances include Siebel (Faust) at Savonlinna Opera Festival, Dorabella (Così fan tutte) and Cherubino (Le nozze di Figaro) at Finnish National Opera, and Ruggiero (Alcina) at the Vaasa Baroque Festival. Her contemporary opera credits include the title role in Frida y Diego by Kalevi Aho, 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 Les nuits d'été, Sieben frühe Lieder, Il Tramonto, and a wide range of sacred works by Bach, Mozart, Respighi, and Rossini.

She is a recipient of the 2024–2026 working grant from the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland, which supports her ongoing research into art songs by female composers and norm-critical interpretations in opera. Her earlier accolades include prizes at the Lappeenranta Singing Competition (2016), International Sibelius Singing Competition (2015), and Kangasniemi Singing Competition (2014), as well as awards from the Mozarteum Summer Academy and the Caj Ehrstedt Foundation.

Curriculum vitae

Erica Back

MEZZO-SOPRANO

NATIONALITY Finnish

LANGUAGES Swedish · English · Norwegian · Finnish · German

BASED IN Oslo, Norway

ENSEMBLE HISTORY

former Finnish National Opera



SELECTED HOUSES AND FESTIVALS

Finnish National Opera · Tampere Opera · Savonlinna Opera Festival · Confidencen Palace Theatre · Vaasa Baroque

Recent and forthcoming engagements

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

Opera engagements

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Kuchtik (The Kitchen Boy)	Rusalka <i>Dvořák</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2022
Hänsel	Hänsel und Gretel <i>E. Humperdinck</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2021 / 2022
Concepción	Die spanische Stunde (L'heure espagnole) <i>M. Ravel</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2021 / 2022
La Ciesca	Gianni Schicchi <i>G. Puccini</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2021
3. Elfe	Rusalka <i>Dvořák</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2020
Cupid	Venus and Adonis <i>J. Blow</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2019–2020
2nd Woman	Dido and Aeneas <i>H. Purcell</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2019–2020
Annio	La Clemenza di Tito <i>W. A. Mozart</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2019–2020
Cupido	Orpheus in der Unterwelt <i>J. Offenbach</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2019
Mrs Jade Boucher	Dead Man Walking <i>J. Heggie</i>	Oldenburgisches Staatstheater	2019
Siebel	Faust <i>Ch. Gounod</i>	Savonlinna Opera Festival	2018

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education & distinctions

2016 Master of Music in Opera
Sibelius-Academy /Helsinki · with Monica Groop

2013 Bachelor of Music
University of Music / Piteå (SWE) · with Synnöve Dellquist / Emma Rönnlund

Additional education & training

2016 Mozarteum Summer Academy
Christiane Iven

2014 Sankt Goar Music Festival and Academy
Julia Hamari · Francisco Araiza · Cornelius Hauptmann

2013 Helena Döse Masterclass, Kungälv (SWE)
Helena Döse, Rudolph Piernay

Awards & competitions

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

2016 Lappeenranta National Singing Competition (2nd Prize)
Lappeenranta, Finland

2015 Sibelius International Singing Competition (2nd Prize)
Järvenpää, Finland

2014 Kangasniemi National Singing Competition (1st Prize)
Kangasniemi, Finland
