KANTTILA MANAGEMENT



ARTIST
DOSSIER

BIOGRAPHY · CV

Maria Polanska

Mezzo-Soprano / Contralto

Biography

Maria Polanska



Polish mezzo-soprano Maria Polańska joined the ensemble of Deutsche Oper am Rhein in the 2024/25 season. Her repertoire in Düsseldorf and Duisburg includes Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*, alongside Olga in *Eugene Onegin*, Sonjetka in *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* and Mercédès in *Carmen*. Her Wagner and Strauss roles include Flosshilde in *Das Rheingold*, Grimgerde in *Die Walküre* and the First Maid in *Elektra*.

The company's announced plans for 2026/27 include Barena in *Jenůfa*, Un musico in *Manon Lescaut* and Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*, as well as Flosshilde in *Götterdämmerung* and returns as Cherubino and Hänsel.

From 2021 to 2024, Ms. Polańska was a member of the International Opera Studio at Nationaltheater Mannheim. There she sang the Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Fyodor in *Boris Godunov*, Flosshilde in both *Das Rheingold* and *Götterdämmerung*, Grimgerde and Dryade in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Her work with the company also included Wolfgang Rihm's *Jakob Lenz* and Sidney Corbett's *Keine Stille außer der des Windes*. In 2022, she travelled with the Mannheim company to the Daegu International Opera Festival in South Korea. In 2024, she appeared as Schwertleite in *Die Walküre* at Saarländisches Staatstheater and in its concert performance at the Opéra Royal de Versailles.

Early music is a particular interest. At the Schwetzinger SWR Festspiele, Ms. Polańska sang Lesbia in Grétry's *Zemira e Azor* with the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin under Bernhard Forck. In Mannheim, she performed Cleofe in Handel's *La resurrezione* under Wolfgang Katschner.

Born in Tarnów, Ms. Polańska began her vocal studies with Katarzyna Oleś-Blacha at the Music Academy in Kraków and completed her master's degree in opera performance with Teru Yoshihara at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart in 2021. She has continued her artistic development with Matthias Rexroth and Eytan Pessen. Her distinctions include third prize at the Ada Sari International Vocal Art Competition in Nowy Sącz in 2021, a place in the final of the 51st Bundeswettbewerb Gesang Berlin in 2022 and a Richard Wagner scholarship in 2023.

Curriculum vitae

Maria Polanska

MEZZO-SOPRANO / CONTRALTO



NATIONALITY Poland

LANGUAGES Polish · English · German

CURRENT ENSEMBLE

2024/25– Deutsche Oper am Rhein (current)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021–2024 International Opera Studio · Nationaltheater Mannheim (former)

SELECTED HOUSES AND FESTIVALS

Staatstheater Saarbrücken · Theater Dortmund · Landestheater Detmold · Landestheater Salzburg

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Mercédès	Carmen *G. Bizet*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2027 2026
Hänsel	Hänsel und Gretel *E. Humperdinck*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2027 2026 2025
Second Lady	Die Zauberflöte *W. A. Mozart*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2027 2026 2025
Cherubino	Le nozze di Figaro *W. A. Mozart*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2027 2026
First Maid	Elektra *R. Strauss*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2026
Orlofsky	Die Fledermaus *J. Strauß*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2026 2025
Grimgerde	Die Walküre *R. Wagner*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2026
Musico	Viva la Mamma *G. Donizetti*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2025 2024

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Dorothea	Viva la Mamma *G. Donizetti*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2025 2024
Second Witch	Dido and Aeneas *H. Purcell*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2025
Sonjetka	Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk *D. Shostakovich*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2025
Olga	Eugene Onegin *P. I. Tchaikovsky*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2025
Flosshilde	Das Rheingold *R. Wagner*	Deutsche Oper am Rhein	2025
Mercédès	Carmen *G. Bizet*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2024
Fyodor	Boris Godunov *M. Mussorgsky*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2024
Second Witch	Dido and Aeneas *H. Purcell*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2024
Dryade	Ariadne auf Naxos *R. Strauss*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2024
Schwertleite	Die Walküre *R. Wagner*	Staatstheater Saarbrücken	2024

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Lesbia	Zemira e Azor *A. E. M. Grétry*	Schwetzinger SWR-Festspiele	2023
Cleofe	La Resurrezione *G. F. Handel*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2023
Zwitter-Alt	Keine Stille außer der des Windes *S. Corbett*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2022
Third Lady	Die Zauberflöte *W. A. Mozart*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2022 2021
Second Voice (Alto)	Jakob Lenz *W. Rihm*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2022 2021
Flower Maiden	Parsifal *R. Wagner*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2022
Second Esquire	Parsifal *R. Wagner*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2022
Voice from Above	Parsifal *R. Wagner*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2022
Flosshilde	Das Rheingold *R. Wagner*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2022
Flosshilde	Götterdämmerung *R. Wagner*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2022

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Grimgerde	Die Walküre *R. Wagner*	Nationaltheater Mannheim	2022
Fairy Godmother	Cinderella *A. Deutscher*	Salzburger Landestheater	2021

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education & distinctions

2018–2021	Master of Music (Opera) Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart · Prof. Teru Yoshihara
2015–2018	Bachelor of Music Krakow Academy of Music · Prof. Katarzyna Oleś-Blacha

Masterclasses

2024	Elisabeth Scholl Barock Vokal Akademie
2023	Hedwig Fassbender Exzellenzlabor Oper

Awards & competitions

2022	Finalist · 51st Bundeswettbewerb Gesang Berlin Berlin, Germany
2021	3rd prize at the 19th International Ada Sari Singing Competition Nowy Sącz, Poland