

KANTTILA MANAGEMENT

ARTIST
DOSSIER

BIOGRAPHY · CV

Markus Nykänen

Tenor

Biography

Markus Nykänen



Finnish tenor Markus Nykänen is a freelance soloist and a frequent guest at Finnish National Opera, where his leading roles include Rodolfo in *La bohème*, Alfredo in *La traviata*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*. His announced Helsinki engagements for 2027 include Roberto in Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda* and a return as Rodolfo.

Mr. Nykänen made his Festival d'Aix-en-Provence debut in 2021, creating the role of the Groom in Kaija Saariaho's *Innocence*. He continued with the production at Finnish National Opera in 2022 and at the Royal Opera House in London and Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam in 2023. His work in new opera also includes a leading role in the world premiere of Kivioja and Toppinen's *Indigo* and Il tenore calmo in the premiere of Iiro Rantala's *Sanatorio Express*, both in Helsinki.

His recent Finnish National Opera repertoire encompasses Chevalier de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Antti Hanka in Madetoja's *Pohjalaisia* and Camille de Rosillon in *Die lustige Witwe*. Other roles include Don José, Victorin in *Die tote Stadt*, Froh in *Das Rheingold* and Ferrando in the Mozart adaptation *Covid fan tutte*.

From 2012 to 2014, Mr. Nykänen was a member of OperAvenir, Theater Basel's young artist programme. There he sang Mengone in *Lo speciale*, Spoletta in *Tosca*, Triquet in *Eugene Onegin* and the Sun in *The Indian Queen*. He returned as a guest in 2014/15 as Cassio in *Otello*. Subsequent engagements at Staatsoper Hamburg included Iopas in *Les Troyens* under Kent Nagano, Remendado in *Carmen* and the Hunchback in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*.

His concert repertoire includes the requiems of Mozart and Verdi, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Haydn's *Nelson Mass*. He sang Mozart's *Requiem* with Sinfonia Lahti in 2025 and the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra in April 2026. Other concert partners include the Basel Symphony Orchestra, Hamburg Philharmonic, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Jyväskylä Sinfonia. He has worked with conductors including Kent Nagano, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Susanna Mälkki and Sakari Oramo.

Before his operatic career, Mr. Nykänen worked extensively as an actor and musical theatre performer at Theater Viirus, Klockriketeatern, Svenska Teatern and Wasa Teater. His musical training began in Espoo's boys' choir and at Kungsvägens Musikinstitut, followed by vocal studies with Susanna Eken, Sherman Lowe, Mariella Devia and Kiri Te Kanawa. He was a finalist in the Lappeenranta Singing Competition.

Curriculum vitae

Markus Nykänen

TENOR

NATIONALITY Finland

LANGUAGES Swedish · Finnish (Native) · English (Fluent)
· German (conversational)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016– Freelance soloist · Finnish National Opera
(frequent guest)

2012–2014 OperAvenir, Theater Basel (former)



SELECTED HOUSES AND FESTIVALS

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden · Dutch National Opera · Bayerische Staatsoper · Staatsoper Hamburg · Festival d'Aix-en-Provence

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Roberto	Maria Stuarda <i>Donizetti</i>	Finnish National Opera	2027
Rodolfo	La bohème <i>Puccini</i>	Finnish National Opera	2027 2020 2019
Alfredo	La traviata <i>Verdi</i>	Finnish National Opera	2026 2018 2017
Tenor soloist	CircOpera 2.0 <i>Various composers</i>	Finnish National Opera	2025
Antti Hanka	Pohjalaisia <i>Madetoja</i>	Finnish National Opera	2025 2024
Camille de Rosillon	Die lustige Witwe <i>Lehár</i>	Finnish National Opera	2025 2020
Chevalier de la Force	Dialogues des Carmélites <i>Poulenc</i>	Finnish National Opera	2024
Gabriel von Eisenstein	Die Fledermaus <i>J. Strauss II</i>	Finnish National Opera	2024 2023

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Raoul	The Phantom of the Opera <i>Lloyd Webber</i>	Finnish National Opera	2024 2018
Pang	Turandot <i>Puccini</i>	Finnish National Opera	2023
Groom (Tuomas)	Innocence <i>Saariaho</i>	Dutch National Opera & Ballet	2023
Groom (Tuomas)	Innocence <i>Saariaho</i>	Royal Opera House, Covent Garden	2023
Groom	Innocence <i>Saariaho</i>	Finnish National Opera	2022
Groom (Tuomas)	Innocence <i>Saariaho</i>	Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Grand Théâtre de Provence	2021
Ferrando	Covid fan tutte <i>Mozart</i>	Finnish National Opera	2020
Octavio	Giuditta <i>Lehár</i>	Operabox	2019
Victorin	Die tote Stadt <i>Korngold</i>	Finnish National Opera	2019
Froh	Das Rheingold <i>Wagner</i>	Finnish National Opera	2019



Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Pinkerton	Madama Butterfly <i>Puccini</i>	Finnish National Opera	2018
Hunchback	Die Frau ohne Schatten <i>R. Strauss</i>	Staatsoper Hamburg	2017
Remendado	Carmen <i>Bizet</i>	Staatsoper Hamburg	2017– 2015
Prince / Servant	Lulu <i>Berg</i>	Staatsoper Hamburg	2017– 2015
Iopas	Les Troyens <i>Berlioz</i>	Staatsoper Hamburg	2016 2015
Cassio	Otello <i>Verdi</i>	Theater Basel	2015 2014



In Concert

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	VENUE / ENSEMBLE	YEAR
Tenor soloist	Requiem, K. 626 <i>Mozart</i>	Turku Philharmonic Orchestra	2026
Tenor soloist	Requiem, K. 626 <i>Mozart</i>	Lahti Symphony Orchestra	2025

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education & distinctions

Music studies
Kungsvägens Musikinstitut

Masterclasses

Vocal studies
Susanna Eken

Vocal studies
Sherman Lowe

Vocal studies
Mariella Devia

Vocal studies
Kiri Te Kanawa

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