KANTTILA MANAGEMENT



ARTIST
DOSSIER

BIOGRAPHY · CV

Melis Jaatinen

Mezzo-Soprano

Biography

Melis Jaatinen



Contemporary music and the Nordic vocal tradition run through Finnish-Turkish mezzo-soprano Melis Jaatinen's work in opera, concert and recital. Her freelance career has developed across the Nordic region, where collaborations with living composers sit alongside performances of the classical repertoire. A continuing association with the Oslo Philharmonic brought Mozart's *Requiem* in March 2026, following Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* with the orchestra in 2023 and with Trondheim Symphony Orchestra in 2024.

Ms. Jaatinen's work with living composers encompasses the premieres of Anna Thorvaldsdottir's opera *UR*, Olli Kortekangas's oratorio *VIA* and Gisle Kverndokk's song cycle *Syngende natt*, first performed in Oslo in 2023. On stage, she sang Hannah after in Laura Kaminsky's *As One* in a Satakunta Music Festival production at Helsinki's Alexander Theatre in October 2022, and Kay in Hans Abrahamsen's *Snedronningen* at the Royal Danish Opera in 2019. She has also appeared in *We – an unknown opera by Bach?* at Norrlandsoperan.

Alongside new opera, her repertoire includes Polina in *The Queen of Spades*, sung at Savonlinna in 2018, and Cherubino, which she performed at Finnish National Opera in 2014. Her relationship with that house began as a soloist trainee from 2010 to 2012, when she sang Sesto in *Giulio Cesare*, Mercédès, Nancy in *Albert Herring* and Zara in the world premiere of Jüri Reinvere's *Puhdistus (The Purge)*. Later roles there included Flora in *La traviata* and Jamila in *Robin Hood*. Further engagements have taken her to Norwegian National Opera, Opera Sør, Theater Trier, Trondheim Opera and Helsinki Contemporary Opera.

Song and chamber music provide another setting for her work with Nordic repertoire. Her debut album, *Impressions du Nord*, appeared in 2022 with pianist Juho Alakärppä; other recordings include music by Sibelius, Grieg, Stravinsky and Pylkkänen. Recital and festival appearances have taken her to Oxford Lieder, the Oslo Opera Festival and Bard Music Festival, and to Musashino Civic Cultural Hall in Tokyo. Her wider concert repertoire includes Bach's *Mass in B minor* and Handel's *Messiah*.

Ms. Jaatinen was a finalist in the Wigmore Hall Song Competition in 2013. She holds a Master of Music from the Sibelius Academy, where she studied with Marjut Hannula, and trained with Barbro Marklund at the Norwegian Academy of Music. She also studied musicology at the University of Oslo. Her subsequent vocal development has included work with Brian Jauhiainen and Paul Farrington.

Curriculum vitae

Melis Jaatinen

MEZZO-SOPRANO



NATIONALITY Finland

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2010–2012 Finnish National Opera · soloist trainee (former)

SELECTED HOUSES AND FESTIVALS

Finnish National Opera · Royal Danish Opera · Savonlinna Opera Festival · Norwegian National Opera · Trondheim Opera · Opera Sør

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Hannah After	As One *Kaminsky*	Alexander Theatre, Helsinki / Helsinki Contemporary Opera Festival	2022
Kay	The Snow Queen *Abrahamsen*	Royal Danish Opera	2019
Polina	Pique Dame *Tchaikovsky*	Savonlinna Opera Festival	2018
Annina	La traviata *Verdi*	Trondheim Opera	2018
Flora	La traviata *Verdi*	Finnish National Opera	2017
Mercédès	Carmen *Bizet*	Finnish National Opera	2016 2011
Berta	Il barbiere di Siviglia *Rossini*	Norwegian National Opera	2015
Cherubino	Le nozze di Figaro *Mozart*	Finnish National Opera	2014

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Kristina	Påske *Kverndokk*	Opera Sør	2014
Mercédès	Carmen *Bizet*	Savonlinna Opera Festival	2014
Mother Seal	The Seal *Kyllönen*	Savonlinna Opera Festival	2013
Jamila	Robin Hood *Linkola*	Finnish National Opera	2013 2011
Zara	Puhdistus (The Purge) *Reinvere*	Finnish National Opera	2012
Sesto	Giulio Cesare *Händel*	Finnish National Opera	2012
Nancy	Albert Herring *Britten*	Finnish National Opera	2012– 2010
Boy / Flowermaiden	Parsifal *Wagner*	Finnish National Opera	2011
Monitor	Suor Angelica *Puccini*	Finnish National Opera	2011
Ulla	Daddy's Girl *Kortekangas*	Finnish National Opera	2011 2009

Performed on Stage

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Second Woodsprite	Rusalka *Dvořák*	Finnish National Opera	2011 2009
Kate Pinkerton	Madama Butterfly *Puccini*	Finnish National Opera	2010
Lucienne	Die tote Stadt *Korngold*	Finnish National Opera	2010
Second Lady	Die Zauberflöte *Mozart*	Finnish National Opera	2010

In Concert

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	VENUE / ENSEMBLE	YEAR
Alto soloist	Requiem, K. 626 *Mozart*	Oslo Philharmonic	2026
Mezzo-soprano soloist	Ensemble concert *Brahms · Kverndokk*	Musikk i Sandefjord Kirke	2025
Mezzo-soprano soloist	Aulaseriene – chamber concert	Oslo Philharmonic	2024
Alto soloist	Missa solemnis in D major	Trondheim Symfoniorkester & Opera	2024
Soloist	Lørdagsopera i Hjertnes	Musikk i Sandefjord Kirke	2024
Soloist	Lørdagsopera i Bølgen	Musikk i Sandefjord Kirke	2024
Alto soloist	Missa solemnis *Beethoven*	Oslo Philharmonic	2023
Mezzo-soprano soloist	Des Knaben Wunderhorn / contemporary songs *Mahler · Kverndokk · Zinovjev · Rihm*	Opera til Folket Oslo Operafestival	2023

CURRICULUM VITAE

Education & distinctions

2009	Master of Music, Vocal Department Sibelius Academy · with Marjut Hannula
2003–2004	Vocal Department studies Norwegian Academy of Music · with Barbro Marklund
2001–2003	Musicology studies University of Oslo

Masterclasses

2015–	Vocal studies Brian Jauhiainen
2008–2015	Vocal studies Paul Farrington

Awards & competitions

2013	Wigmore Hall Song Competition: finalist London