KünstlerSekretariat am Gasteig oHG

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Short Biography - Okka von der Damerau, Mezzo-soprano

Okka von der Damerau is one of the leading mezzo-sopranos of her generation. With her powerful, nuanced mezzo-soprano voice and clear, natural diction, the Hamburg-born singer senses the authentic tone in every character, which connects her with her audience.

In the 2026/27 season, Okka von der Damerau will appear as Klytämnestra in Strauss's *Elektra* at Deutsche Oper Berlin, she will make her house debut as Fricka (*Die Walküre*) at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, and return as Erda (*Das Rheingold*) to the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona and as Brangäne (*Tristan und Isolde*) to the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

On the concert stage this season, she will perform Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* at the Tsinandali Festival and with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin at the Berlin Philharmonie, Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Bochum Symphony Orchestra, Mahler's *Symphony No. 3* with the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* in Kraków and Warsaw.

As a longtime member of the Bavarian State Opera ensemble, she appeared on stage in many roles including Waltraute (*Götterdämmerung*), Erda (*Rheingold*, *Siegfried*), Azucena (*Il trovatore*), and Charlotte (*Die Soldaten*). From Munich, her career took her to major opera houses such as the Vienna State Opera, Opéra national de Paris, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Teatro Real Madrid, Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, Hamburg State Opera, Semperoper Dresden, and the Bayreuth Festival.

Her role debuts in recent years include Brünnhilde (*Walküre*), Ariadne (title role), Ježibaba (*Rusalka*), Ortrud (*Lohengrin*) and Venus (*Tannhäuser*). Her Brangäne (*Tristan und Isolde*) was celebrated in Munich under Simone Young, as well as at the Opéra de Paris and with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel.

She is also in high demand as a concert performer and works with renowned orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic, the BR Symphony Orchestra, the Staatskapelle Berlin, the KBS Symphony Orchestra Seoul, and the Cleveland Orchestra.

Highlights of recent seasons include engagements at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Salzburg Festival, the Tokyo Spring Festival, and Teatro alla Scala in Milan. Her concert repertoire includes Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, Symphonies Nos. 2, 3, and 8, the *Kindertotenlieder* and *Rückert-Lieder*, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*, and many other major works.

She was awarded the Festival Prize of the Munich Opera Festival (2013) and the Special Prize of the Jury at the International Singing Competition for Wagnerian Voices in Venice

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