

Kersti Ala-Murr

Soprano

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Education

University of Stavanger, Department of Music and Dance/ Norway – Educational Theory and Practice 2014

University of Stavanger, Department of Music and Dance/ Norway – chamber music, jazzimpro 2011

University of Stavanger, Department of Music and Dance/ Norway – Postgraduate Diploma 2010

University of Stavanger, Department of Music and Dance/ Norway – Master of Arts 2009

Staatliche Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe/ Opernschule

Estonian Academy of Music (EMA) – bacalaureus atrium 2000 (2005 reformed to Master of Arts)

Opera studio/ Estonian Academy of Music

Tartu Music School (named after Heino Eller)/ department of choir conducting

Teachers

Prof. Dr. Theodore Coresi (Austria); Prof. Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz, Åse Nordmo-Løvberg, Grete Bjerketvedt (Norway); John Norris, Snezana Nena Brzakovic, Prof. Maria Venuti, Prof. Ingrid Kremling (Germany); Anu Kaal (Estonia)

Acting lessons – Henning Karlstad (Norway)

Of short duration singing lessons - Roland Hermann (Germany), Vesla Tveten, Barbro Marklund (Norway); Ks. Hilde Zadek (Austria); Birgita Bergstrøm, Veiko Kiiver (Sweden)

Conductors and orchestras

Pärnu Linnaorkester - Kuuno Areng, Raul Talmar, Erki Pehk; Estonian National Opera - Paul Mägi, Arvo Volmer, Jüri Alpertin; Hirvo Surva, Andrus Kallastu (Estonia); Nordfjord Operaorkester – Daniele Rustioni (Italy); Stavanger Symphony Orchestra - Steven Sloane; UiS Orchestra – Per Kristian Skaland; EnB1 – Jan Bjøranger; Håkon Austbø, Geir Aksdal; Jæren Symphony Orchestra – Timothy Miller; Stavanger Amateur Symphony Orchestra – Andres Moberg; Bacau Philharmonic Orchestra – Stanislav Ushev (Bulgaria)

Coaches and accompanists

Frieda Bernstein, Tarmo Eespere, Triinu Kull, Andres Mutso, Kristjan Randalu, Ave Sikk, Andres Paas, Jaak Lutsoja (Estonia); Siirka-Liisa Kaakinen-Pilch (Finland); Kåre Ørnung, Erling R. Eriksen, Sanae Yoshida Mæland, Friederike Wildschütz, Ida Mo, John Lidal (Norway); Peter Sommer (Nationaltheater Mannheim), Matthias Hammerschmitt, Scott Curry, Alessandro Zuppardo (Germany); Sarel Maler (Israel); Sergio Olivia (Teatro dell' Opera di Roma), Umberto Finazzi, Dante Mazzola (Scala di Milano); Vojtech Spurny (National Theater – Prague); Alexandru Petrovici (National Opera House in Bucharest)

Organists

Turi Seim, Sten Næss, Vidar Hansen, Håvard Skaadel, Guttorm Ihlebæk, Ken Phillips, Willem Wilschut, Ole Karsten Sundlisæter (Norway)

Master Classes and Workshops

Prof. Ingrid Kremling (Germany); Jenny Anvelt (Italy); Aleksander Kapustjanski (Russia); André Orlowitz (Denmark); John Lidal (USA); Rudolf Jansen (Netherland); Gianfranco Plenizio (Italy)
International Masterclass of Prof. Dr. Theodore Coresi in Oradea/ Romania 2013, 2014
International Masterclass of Prof. Dr. Theodore Coresi in Mondorf-Les-Bains/ Luxembourg 2013
Workshop with Matthew Bourne (England): Written Unwritten, 2012 Stavanger/ Norway
Meisterkurs Liedgestaltung – Karl-Peter Kammerlander/ Max Reger-Tage 2012, 2013, 2014 Weiden, Germany
International Masterclass of Prof. dr. Theodore Coresi in Vienna/ Austria 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
Master class with conductor Hirvo Surva (Estonia), 2010 Stavanger/ Norway
International Opera Workshop in Roma 2010 – Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz, Sergio Oliva (Italy)
Geirr Tveitt seminar – Njål Sparbo, Einar Røttingen
Liedseminar (Stavanger/ Norway) 2008 - Helge Birkeland, Anne-Lise Sollied
Institute for Living Voice 2007 Stavanger - Babara Bonney (USA), Maja Ratkje (Norway)
Nordfjord International Opera Workshop 2006, 2007 - Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz, Sergio Oliva (Italy), Kayoko Tada, Dante Mazzola (Italy)
Masterclass “Das Deutsche Lied”, „Contemporary music“ - Prof. Eva Märtson-Wilson
”Ticino Musica” International Meeting of Young Musicians 2003, 2004 (Switzerland) - Prof. Maria Venuti
Workshop "W. A. Mozart" - Thomas Wiedenhofer (Germany)
Workshop with producer Yvonne McDevitt (London) 2006/ Norsk Skuespillersenter
Additional training course in Alexander Technique - Päivi Pärnaste, Maret Mursa Tormis (EMA)
Musical Master Class - Ian Adam (London)

Work experiences

Recitals and other events - in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Norway, Romania, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France, Luxembourg, USA, Canada
Singing in different choirs: Tartu Youth Choir, Tartu Conductors Female Choir (Tartu Music School), Tallinn Town Hall Chamber Choir, Singers Octet in Tallinn
To seasons at the ***Estonian National Opera***/ Choir in - E.Tamberg “Cyrano de Bergerac”; P.Tchaikovski “The Nutcracker”; G.Verdi “Nabucco”, “Don Carlo”; O. Nicolai “Die Lustige Weiber von Windsor”; W.A.Mozart „Le Nozze di Figaro“; G.Puccini “Turandot”, M.Ravel “Daphnis and Chloe”; C.Orff “Carmina Burana”; J.Herman “Hallo, Dolly”; E.Kálmán “Die Csárdásfürstin”; J.Strauss “Wiener Blut”; T.Raadik „Winnie-the-Pooh“

Some appearances

In Estonia: soloist at the „International Choirfestival 1994”; Straussgala in Elva; Tartu Musikfestival; Mozartgala – Kuressaare Opera Days 2006 with Pärnu Linnaorkester; since 2008 collaboration with Eesti Kontsert (www.concert.ee); Opera in Town Hall 2009; Rapla church music festival; Tallinn Winter Festival 2010, 2014; collaboration with Pärnu Opera; Festival VISIOON XI; Christmas Jazz 2013 (Jazzkaar); IdeeJazz 2013; Kabli Sunset Festival 2014; national television and radio appearances

In Latvia: Gala Concert at the Riga National Opera ESTO2004

In Norway: Olavsdagene 2001 in Sarpsborg; Baltisk Filmfestival in Oslo; Operagala-concert with Nordfjord Operaorkestra; Moss Musikkfestuke; Oslo Operafestival; Gamalostfestivalen 2007, 2008, 2011 in Vik i Sogn; Master Recital with Elizabeth Norberg-Schulz in Nordfjordeid; Ran "Supplications" with Stavanger Symphony Orchestra 2007; Frederikgala in Fredrikstad 2008; Soloist Award concert with UiS Orchestra 2008; "Point of Peace" Stavanger 2008 - concert for Nobel peace prize winners; TV-aksjonen 2008 (Stavanger); Festival Hommage à Olivier Messiaen 2008; Arvo Pärt-Festival 2009/ Stavanger; Sommer i Bjegsted, Stavanger Konserthus 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015; Sandnes Kulturhus

In Germany: Gasteig in München; Beneficconcert for Estonian Orphan homes in Schorndorf and Eggenstein; International Days in Worms; Kieler Woche 2007; Festival of Lights ESTO 2009 Münster; Festival Weidener Max-Reger-Tage 2013, 2014 in Weiden

In Switzerland: Serata di Gala in Ascona and Lugano

In Romania: International Music Festival Musica Sacra 2013 ”Vox Domini”; Galaconcert with Bacau Symphony Orchestra (Wagner, Piazzolla)

In Luxembourg: Piazzolla project “Adiós Nonino”

Competitions

2011 Sep. **semifinalist** – 2nd International Music Competition “Vox Artis” (Sibiu/ Romania)
2008 January **winner** - Soloist competition at UiS (University of Stavanger)
2006 Juni 9th-18th Wilhelm Stenhammar International Music Competition (Sweden)
2005 July 27th-28th **third prize** – Henrik Krumm Singing Competition (Estonia)
2005 June 1st-5th The 4th Klaudia Taev Competition for Young Opera Singers (Estonia)
2005 May 23rd-28th **semifinalist** - 11th International Competition for Opera Singers “Premio Mattia Battistini” (Rieti/ Italy)
2004 Oct. 26th-30th **second round** - International Opera Competition “Iris Adami Corradetti” (Padua/ Italy)
2003 Sept. 25th-30th 3rd International Hilde Zadek Singing Competition (Austria)
2002 Nov. 23rd-28th Competition-Festival “CON BRIO” for Estonian Young Interpreters
second prize – Estonian Competition for Young Singers;
second/ third prize – Estonian Competition for Young Singers
Estonian Television Singing Competition “ Kaks takti ette”

Repertoire

Oratorium, Kantate, Konzert - G.Fauré “Requiem”; B.Britten “Ceremony of Carols” op.28; C.Saint Saëns “Oratorio de Noël” op.12; G.B.Pergolesi “Stabat Mater”; J.S.Bach “Magnificat”, “Matthäuspassion”, “Jauchzet Gott” nr.51; G.F.Händel “Messias”, “Utrecht De Teum”; G.A.Rossini “Petite Messe Solenne”; F.Mendelssohn “Paulus” op.36, “Elias” op.70; J.Haydn „Die Schöpfung“; A.Vivaldi “Gloria in D”; S.Ran “Supplications”; A.Pärt “L’abbe Agathon”; S.Møller “Magnificat”

Opera roles - Parts performed partly and/ or completely

L.Bernstein “West side story” - EMA
ZERLINA (W.A.Mozart “Don Giovanni”) – EMA
YVETTE (G.Puccini “La Rondine”) – EMA (producer Arne Mikk)
FLOWERGIRL (W.A.Mozart „Le Nozze di Figaro“) Estonian National Opera
SUSANNA, LA CONTESSA (W.A.Mozart “Le Nozze di Figaro”) – production in Estonia
ADINA (G.Donizetti “L’Elisir d’amore”) – Rieti/ Italy
FIORDILIGI (W.A.Mozart “Cosi fan tutte”) – production in Estonia
BELINDA (H.Purcell “Dido and Aeneas”) – Concertperformance in EMA
JOLANTHE (P.Tchaikovski “Jolanthe” Act 1.) – EMA (producer Arne Mikk)
AMAH (G-C.Menotti "Amahl and the Night Visitors") Estonian National Opera
ERNESTINE (J.Offenbach "Monsieur Choufleury") – EMA
LUCY (G-C.Menotti "The Telephone") – EMA (producer T. Wiedenhofer)
STORYTELLER (K. Kristensen and G.Guttormsen "Himmelstigen") - production in Sarbsborg/ Norway (producer Kalle Solgård)
CLEOPATRA (G.F. Händel “Giulio Cesar”) – Opernschule in Karlsruhe (KA)
MARZELLINE (L.van Beethoven „Fidelio“) – Opernschule in KA
"Ritmo en" (Ein Gemeinschaftsprojekt des RSK und des Instituts für MusikTheater der Musikhochschule in Karlsruhe)
ZWEITE DAME (W.A.Mozart „Die Zauberflöte“) – Opernschule in KA
VITELLIA (W.A.Mozart "La clemenza di Tito") - Sandnes Kulturhus/ Norway
BUTTERFLY (G.Puccini “Madama Butterfly”) – Sandnes Kulturhus/ Norway
TATJANA (P.Tschaikovsky “Eugenie Onegin”) – LKS, Bjegsted in Stavanger/ Norway
A.Schönberg “Pierrot lunaire” op.21 – Stavanger, Bergen/ Norway
ZELATRICE (G.Puccini “Suor Angelica”) – Sandnes Kulturhus/ Norway
MICAËLA (G.Bizet “Carmen”); MANON (J.Massenet “Manon”); MARGUERITE (Gounod “Faust”); FRAU FLUTH (O.Nicolai „Die Lustige Weiber von Windsor); G.Puccini: LIU (“Turandot”)

Parts prepared partly and/ or completely

W.A.Mozart: DONNA ELVIRA („Don Giovanni“), ELETTRA (“Idomeneo”); G.Verdi: LEONORA (“Il trovatore”); G.Puccini: MANON (“Manon Lescaut”), BUTTERFLY (“Madama Butterfly”); AGATHE (C.M. von Weber „Der Freischütz“); P.Tschaikovsky: LISA (“Pique dame”), TATJANA (“Eugenie Onegin”); R.Wagner: ELISABETH (“Tannhäuser”), ELSA (“Lohengrin”), SENTA (“Der fliegende Holländer”); R.Strauss: ARIADNE (“Ariadne auf Naxos”)

Vocal cycles – R.Schumann “Frauenliebe und Leben” op.42; J.Brahms „Acht Zigeunerlieder“ op.103; E.Grieg „Haugtussa“ op.67, “Sechs Lieder” op.48; G.von Zieritz „Japanische Lieder“; M.Mussorgski „Djetskaja“ („The Nursery“); S.Prokofjev „Pjat stihotvoreni Anna Akmatovoi“ op.27; A.Zemlinsky „Walzer-Gesänge“ op.6; O.Messiaen “Poèmes pour Mi”; A.Berg “Sieben frühe Lieder”; L.Boulanger “Clairières dans le ciel”; O.K.Sundlisæter “Til Deg”; P.Hindemith “Das Marien Leben”; M.Reger “Zwei geistliche Lieder” op.105; C.Ansorge “Lieder und Gesänge” op.14

Lied and romances - F.Schubert, F.Mendelssohn, R.Schumann, J.Brahms, H.Wolf, G.Mahler, M.Reger, E.Korngold, R.Strauss, E.Grieg, A.B.Grøndahl, M.Ratkje, Ø.Sommerfeldt, J.Sibelius, W.Stenhammar, E.Hovland, F.Poulenc, S.Barber, A.Piazzolla, P.Tschaikowski, S.Rahmaninov, I.Pizzetti, E.Tubin, M.Saar, M.Lüdig, L.Sumera, A.Pärt, M.Tally etc.

Scholarships

- 2014 Estonian Performers Association (EEL); Norges Korforbund
- 2013 Fond for utøvende kunstnere (FFUK); Association of Estonian Professional Musicians; Stavanger Culture Stipend 2013; EEL; KULKA
- 2012 EEL; FFUK
- 2011 Kulturkontakt Nord; Estonian Kulturkapital (KULKA); FFUK
- 2010 FFUK
- 2009 Estonian Kulturkapital; Association of Estonian Professional Musicians; Tom Wilhelmsen Stipend
- 2008 Estonian Kulturkapital, Stipend from University of Stavanger; Sleipnir Stipend; ERKF; The winner of Culture Stipend 2007 given by Fredrikstad commune
- 2007 Association of Estonian Professional Musicians; Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Estonia/ Sleipnir Stipend; Sine Butenschøns Fond; Estonian Kulturkapital
- 2004 Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art; Sine Butenschøns Fond
- 2003 FFUK

Languages

Estonian (native), Norwegian (fluent), German (good), Swedish (good), English (good), Russian (moderate), Danish (moderate), Italian (moderate)

Other information

- 2014 Norwegian Musicians' Union (MFO), union representativ
- 2013 CD release “Adiós Nonino”, music Astor Piazzolla (Jaak Lutsoja Quintet feat. Kersti Ala-Murr)
Establishment of a classical vocal group OperaVolume
- 2011 “HONK!” – vocal coaching (Stavanger Kulturskolen/ Norway)
- 2010 (since) managing “Operapub in Bøker&Børst” (Stavanger, Norway)
- 2010 CD release “Vaikimine oleks vale.../ Å tie ville være galt...
Member by Estonian Performers Association (EEL); Musikernes fellesorganisasjon (MFO)
- 2009 Volunteer at the Arvo Pärt Festival 2009/ Stavanger, Norway
- 2007 Projektmanager - "Summer classic in South-Estonia" (6 concerts)
- 2006 Language consultant – “Per Gynt” by E. Grieg (theatre “Vanemuine”/ Estonia)
- 2006 Member by Association of Estonian Professional Musicians
- 2005 Projektmanager – 3 concerts in Østfold/ Norway with G. B. Pergolesi “Stabat Mater”
- 2004-
- 2011 Kulturreferent in „Deutsch-Estnisches Forum“
- 2002 Member by association: “Norsk-estisk forening” (“The Norwegian-Estonian association”)
- 2002 Founder in “Deutsch-Estnisches Forum” (“German-Estonian Forum”)

Has been working:

Singing teacher: UiS, Stavanger Kulturskole, Eigersund Kulturskole, Randaberg Kulturskole, Gjesdal Kulturskole, private

Choir conducting and vocal coaching: Fredrikstad Male choir; mixed choirs: Vik Songlag i Vik i Sogn; i Stavanger Kom&Kor, Bjergsted Kammerkor, Beatles choir “Nowhere Man”, Stavanger Symphony Choir, Kampen and Øyane School Choirs; i Sandnes Corus, Sandnes Operakor, Sjøkk; i Tananger Singing66; i Figgjo Ljomen

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Signature: Kersti Ala-Murr