

Lisa Newill-Smith, Soprano

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Biography

Soprano Lisa Newill-Smith's Despina was described by the Hastings Observer as "one of the most subtle performances I can recall, splendidly sung and totally alive to the text." In 2022, she debuted as Donna Anna in Vienna at the Vienna Summer Music Festival. 2023 includes performances of Ullmann's *Voice, Books and FIRE* and Oliveros' *Sonic Meditations* with PHØNIX16 at MaerzMusik, and "Deutsche Komponistinnen Kammerkonzert" at Theater Vorpommern.

2019/2020 highlights included a role debut as Servilia with Shoestring Opera Melbourne in Berlin and a subsequent fach change to dramatic coloratura soprano. Lisa also performed several livestream concerts during the lockdown featuring music by women composers. In 2017/18, she sang Queen Gwenevere in the world premiere of Keith Beal's *Merlin*, a jump-in Despina, Donna Elvira, Echo (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), and Madame Lidoine (*Les Dialogues de Carmélites*).

In 2016, Lisa sang Gretel with Alltagsoper, later jumping in for the Royal Antwerp Conservatoire, and had her debut as Donna Elvira in Alltagsoper's premiere performance. In 2014, she premiered a new opera, *Absolved Passions*, by Scottish composer David Wishart at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Other operatic and performance highlights include *Hélène (Hin und Zurück)*, *Fox (The Cunning Little Vixen)*, *Josephine (H.M.S. Pinafore)*, and *Wanda (La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein)*, as well as performances with the J. Strauss Orchester Wiesbaden and Opera Classica Europa, the Trentino Music Academy, the Greek Opera Studio and the Berlin Opera Studio in Syros and Bayreuth.

Lisa has extensive experience with contemporary repertoire. In 2021/22, she sang Khan's *I saw the world collapse & it was only a dream* at the Louvre and *Nuits* at the Xenakis Festival at ATONAL Berlin with PHØNIX16. She premiered *Capriccio* by Rylan Gleave and sang in the John Cage Workshop. Other world premieres include *Queen Gwenevere (Merlin, Beal)*, *Young Woman (Absolved Passions, Wishart)*, *Mauer Broadcast (Bielawa)*, and *Winter Sun (Wishart)*.

Lisa has sung in masterclasses with Angel Blue, Dame Felicity Lott, Sarah Maria Sun, and Renata Scotto. Her oratorio and concert works include Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, Mozart's *Requiem in D minor*, and Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*. Lisa was a finalist in the Chicago Oratorio Award with the American Prize, the Opera Classica Europa competition, the Iuventus Canti Competition, and a finalist in the American Prize professional opera division. Lisa is from Virginia, USA, and is currently based in Germany. For more information, visit www.lisanewillsmith.com.