KünstlerSekretariat am Gasteig oHG

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Biography - Elsa Benoit, Soprano

With her stylistic versatility and vocal refinement, French soprano Elsa Benoit has established herself as an in-demand artist with a repertoire spanning from the Baroque era to the modern day.

The 2026/27 season brings major artistic milestones across Europe's most prestigious stages. To open the season, she returns to the newly reopened Opernhaus Köln in October 2026 as Sophie in a new production of Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* (directed by Marie-Ève Signeyrole), conducted by Andrés Orozco-Estrada. Spring 2027 marks an important role debut as Fiordiligi in W. A. Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at the Opéra de Rennes and Angers Nantes Opéra, conducted by Nicolas Ellis and directed by Phia Ménard. In the summer, she visits the famed Glyndebourne Festival to perform Micaëla in Georges Bizet's *Carmen* under the baton of Ben Glassberg. Closing the season in July 2027, she returns once more to Opernhaus Köln to sing the title role in Claudio Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, directed by Ted Huffman.

On the concert platform, the 2026/27 season promises equally outstanding engagements. She begins with a tour alongside the Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich under Fabien Gabel, performing Maurice Ravel's *Shéhérazade* and Gustav Mahler's *Das klagende Lied* in Grafenegg, St. Pölten, and the Golden Hall of the Wiener Musikverein. Next, she performs Mahler's Symphony No. 4 with the Orchestre philharmonic de Strasbourg under Aziz Shokhakimov, followed by Haydn's *The Creation* (*Die Schöpfung*) at the Wiener Konzerthaus with Ensemble Barucco and the Wiener Singakademie under Heinz Ferlesch. Further south, she joins the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome for Francis Poulenc's *Gloria*under Alexander Soddy. In Madrid, she performs Claude Debussy's *Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien* with the Orquesta y Coro Nacionales de España under Pierre Bleuse, followed by a concert performance of Bizet's *Les Pêcheurs de perles* at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona alongside Marc Minkowski and Les Musiciens du Louvre.

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As an internationally acclaimed concert soloist, Elsa Benoit has collaborated with leading

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orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Oslo Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Orchestre de Paris, and Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich. She has worked with distinguished conductors including Robin Ticciati, Alan Gilbert, Emmanuelle Haïm, Andris Nelsons, Marie Jacquot, Herbert Blomstedt, Jonathan Nott, Vladimir Jurowski, and Klaus Mäkelä.

After obtaining her Bachelor's degree at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, she graduated with distinction from the Dutch National Opera Academy. Early in her career, she earned top honors at several international singing competitions, including the *Symphonies d'Automne* and the MACM Competition.

Following her time in the Opera Studio of the Bayerische Staatsoper and at the Stadttheater Klagenfurt—where her portrayal of Micaëla (*Carmen*) earned her the Austrian Music Theatre Prize—Elsa Benoit joined the ensemble of the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. There, she shone in roles such as Musetta (*La Bohème*), Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), and Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*). Subsequent guest engagements took her as Leïla (*Les Pêcheurs de perles*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), and Sophie (*Der Rosenkavalier*) to renowned venues including the Palais Garnier in Paris, the opera houses of Zurich, Dresden, Berlin, and Cologne, as well as the Salzburg, Glyndebourne, and Aix-en-Provence festivals.

Her discography features a wide array of CD and DVD recordings. Highlights include her role as Poppea in Handel's *Agrippina* (Warner Classics), which received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Opera Recording, Rameau's *Les Indes galantes* at the Bayerische Staatsoper (BelAir Classiques), Rameau's *Hippolyte et Aricie* at the Opéra Comique (Naxos), and Poulenc's *Gloria* with the Dresden Philharmonic (Berlin Classics).

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