

Elisabeth Holmertz

– sopran

The repertoire of Swedish soprano Elisabeth Holmertz spans from medieval to contemporary via Baroque, folk song, experimental musical theatre, and the late Romantic era, but she mainly works with early and contemporary music.

Elisabeth studied at the Norwegian Academy of Music where her principal teacher was Professor Barbro Marklund-Petersône. She also studied with Professor Barbara Schlick at the Hochschule für Musik Köln, Germany, where she ended her studies with a Konzertexamen in 2004.

Her opera debut was made in 2005, singing the title role in Ophelias: Death by Water Singing by Henrik Hellstenius. Since then she has lent her voice to many female characters (Dido, Hedda Gabler, Armide, et al).

Elisabeth has appeared as soloist with some of the most important ensembles and orchestras in Scandinavia, among them, Concerto Copenhagen, the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, the Oslo Simfonietta, Danish Chamber Orchestra and the Cikada Ensemble.

She has worked with conductors such as Christian Eggen, Ingar Bergby, Tõnu Kaljuste, Jonathan Stockhammer and Andrew Lawrence-King. Larger concertante work includes Pierrot Lunaire (Arnold Schönberg), Lonely Child (Claude Vivier), L'Abbé Agathon (Arvo Pärt), and Tre Voci (Arne Nordheim).

She is also a sought after oratorio singer and has sung all the main church music in Aachen dome, the Nidaros cathedral and others.

Her open mind, musical diversity and flexible technique make her the perfect singer for all kinds of projects, as well as different musical styles. Stave Church Songs is a project that combines a mediaeval sequence with folk music, avante garde, jazz and impro, and toured Norwegian stave churches in 2009.

She has played musical theatre together with ensemble Ning (NO) and Teater Cinnober (SE) in Maria Tryti Wennerød's "Meir/Mera".

In 2013 she premiered "Desiring Machines", an experimental opera about women- myths and icons by Erik Dæhlin.

Although she loves opera and orchestral work, she is a true chamber musician at heart. Her two main co-musicians are Swedish lute player Fredrik Bock and pianist Kenneth Karlsson. Together with Fredrik Bock (SE) she seeks to expand the sound of the classical soprano- and lute duo with their own arrangements. They have released two albums with lute songs on LAWO classics; on the second, "Sounds, sweet airs and the art of longing", they have the wonderful company of flute player Poul Høxbro.

Kenneth Karlsson is one of the most respected pianists in Norway and with him she sings the newest and coolest music of today.

Most important is the music.