



Helena Rasker

Alto

Helena Rasker finished her studies with distinction at the Royal Conservatory of Music in The Hague, the Netherlands. She continued her studies at the Tanglewood Music center in the USA. Presently she is being coached by Margreet Honig in Amsterdam.

Helena Rasker worked with conductors such as Marc Minkowski, Fabio Biondi, Michel Corboz, Christian Zacharias, Ingo Metzmacher, Oliver Knussen, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, Reinbert de Leeuw, Jaap van Zweden, Pascal Rophé and Stefan Asbury and with orchestras and ensembles such as the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Les Musiciens du Louvre, Europa Galante, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Bamberger Symphoniker, Asko|Schönberg and the Chamber Orchestras of Geneva and Lausanne. She performed at renowned festivals like the Holland Festival, Salzburger Festspiele, Melbourne Festival and many others.

The repertoire of Helena Rasker is very diverse. It includes Bach's *Matthew Passion* and *John Passion*, Handel *Messiah*, Mendelssohn *Elias* and *Paulus*, Mozart *Requiem* and oratorio by Rossini, Dvorák, Szymanowski, Liszt, Duruflé and Honegger, Mahler *Symphony No. 2* and *No. 3*, *Rückert Lieder*, *Kindertotenlieder* and *Lied von der Erde*, Shostakovich *Tsvetajeva Songs*, Wagner *Wesendonklieder*, Frank Martin *Der Cornet*, Brahms *Alto Rhapsody*, Schönberg *Pierrot Lunaire*, and further contemporary works by Karlheinz Stockhausen, Salvatore Sciarrino, Rob Zuidam, Luigi Nono, Sofia Gubaidulina, Claude Vivier, Michel van der Aa and Pascal Dusapin.

At the Netherlands Opera she participated in productions of Schönberg *Moses und Aron* under Pierre Boulez, Vivier *Rêves d'un Marco Polo* under Reinbert de Leeuw, the premieres of Michel van der Aa *After Life/Bryna Pulmann* under Otto Tausk (live DVD-recording) and Rob Zuidam *Adam in Ballingschap/Michaël* under Reinbert de Leeuw. She also created the role of La Furie in Jan van Vlymen's *Thyeste*, a co-production of La Monnaie Brussels/The National Reisopera. Recently she very successfully created the part of Ursula in *Legende* by Peter Jan Wagemans at the Netherlands Opera again under Reinbert de Leeuw.

Helena Rasker participated in several CD-recordings such as a live-recording of Luigi Nono's *Prometeo* at the Salzburger Festspiele with Ingo Metzmacher, Luigi Nono *Guai ai Gelidi Mostri* with Andre Richard, Schoenberg *Moses und Aron* with Pierre Boulez and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Michael Haydn *Requiem* with Christian Zacharias, Purcell *Dido and Aeneas* with Jed Wentz, Händel *Theodora* with Peter Neumann and works by Claude Vivier with Reinbert de Leeuw, as well as many radio and television recordings throughout Europe.

Recent engagements: Helena Rasker will perform in various important productions in the coming season. For example, she will work with Combattimento/Scapino Ballet (Pearl), a new Requiem by Rob Zuidam at the November Music Festival (Den Bosch, NL) and she will be part of the *Walküre* production of the Netherlands Opera, the new opera

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Laika by Martijn Padding (Netherlands Opera), *John's Passion* with the Rotterdam Philharmonic, Liverpool Philharmonic, etc.

Future engagements include a tour with Combattimento in Italy, George Benjamin's opera *Into the Little Hill* at the opera in Essen, Mahler with the Noord Nederlands Orchestra, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon, Alban Berg's *Lulu* at the Netherlands Opera and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, as well as many recitals.

June 2014