

Abbie Furmansky

American soprano Abbie Furmansky came to prominence while performing as an ensemble member at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, where she quickly established herself in the lyric repertoire. She is especially noted for her riveting stage presence, rich vocal timbre, musicality and expansive voice.

She has worked with well-known conductors such as Kent Nagano, Ingo Metzmacher, Christopher Hogwood, John Nelson, Christian Thielemann and Edo de Waart. Throughout Europe and in the USA, she appeared with the German Symphony Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Berlin Radio Orchestra, and the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, among many others.

Further engagements led her to opera houses such as the New York City Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Oper Frankfurt, de Nederlandse Opera and the Baden-Baden Festival.

Concert performances include Britten's *War Requiem* at the Berlin Philharmonic, Bernstein's Kaddish Symphony at the Lucerne Festival, Beethoven-Strauss' *Die Ruinen von Athen* with the Dresden Philharmonic, Frank Martin's *Golgotha* in Potsdam, Beethoven's *9th Symphony* in Serbia, Mozart Arias with the Southwest Philharmonic Constance, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.

From 2007 to 2010 Abbie Furmansky was a member of the ensemble at the Staatstheater Mainz, where she made her debuts as the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Jenny in *Mahagonny*, Mimi in *La Bohème*, Marie in *Wozzeck* and the title role in *Madama Butterfly* in a production by Katharina Wagner.

As a recitalist she has performed in Zamora and Morelia, Mexico with the pianist Alexandr Pashkov, at the Deutsche Oper Berlin and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, with her husband Daniel Sutton.

In 2011, she was a celebrated guest soloist at the Verdi/Wagner Gala at the Theater Magdeburg sponsored by the Wagner Society. Spring 2012 she sang Mahler's Second Symphony in Sofia, Bulgaria, in a Europewide Bulgarian Radio Broadcast.

Fall 2012 brought her Carnegie Hall Debut in Gustav Mahler's Eighth Symphony with the American Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Leon Botstein.

Abbie Furmansky sang Verdi's *Requiem*, in the Friedenskirche Potsdam, Mozart's *Laudate Dominum KV339*, Mendelssohn's *42nd Psalm* and Rossini's *Stabat Mater* in the Friedenauer Kantorei, and the Verdi *Requiem* in Magdeburg with the Magdeburger Kantatenchor and the Mitteldeutschen Kammerorchester in 2013.

In April 2014, she performed the roles of Sieglinde, Wellgunde, Guttrune and Freia in "*Der Ring in 100 Minuten*" (The Ring in 100 Minutes), directed by Jasmin Solfaghari and conducted by Heiko Matthias Förster. The production was later broadcast on Deutschlandradio Kultur and presented again in the Atze Musiktheater

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In 2015, she appeared as Sieglinde in “Der Ring an Einem Abend” (The Ring in One Evening) with the Orchester des Staatstheaters at Gärtnerplatz in the Philharmonie in Munich conducted by Heiko Mathias Förster. Spring 2014 she was heard as the 4th Maid in Strauss’ *Elektra* at the Berlin Philharmonic with the Berlin Radio Orchestra under the direction of Marek Janowski.

Her discography includes the BMG recording of the opera *La Favorita* appearing with Vesselina Kasarova, Ramon Vargas and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra as Inés under the direction of Marcello Viotti. Additionally she can be seen on the DVD of the Nikolaus Lehnhoff directed *Parsifal* conducted by Kent Nagano and on the recording of Bernstein’s *Kaddish Symphony* released by Nimbus Records in the Samuel Pisar text version.

Abbie Furmansky’s repertoire includes the title role in *Madama Butterfly*, Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Elisabetta in *Don Carlo*, Marie in *Wozzeck*, Sieglinde in *Die Walküre*, Madame Lidoine in *Les Dialogues des Carmelites*, and Ariadne in *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

As a sought-after voice teacher, Abbie maintains a private vocal studio in Berlin and has been a vocal instructor at the renowned IVAI Summer Workshop in Tel Aviv for several years. In 2010 she began giving regular voice lessons to the young artists in the Staatsoper Berlin Opera Studio. Additionally she co-founded the vocal workshop *Body Mind Voice* program.

In April 2011, she gave a lecture as “artist in residence” and conducted a master class at her alma mater, the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The following summer, she taught at the Greek Opera Studio and at the Ars Vocalis in Mexico. Spring 2017 she gave a concert and a master class at the renowned Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University and in spring 2018 a master class at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp.

Since 2011 she is a faculty member of Greek Opera Studio and in residence there every summer. Since 2014 she teaches at the Summer Singing course in Beveren, Belgium. She is teaching at and is a co-founder of the Balance Arts Opera Berlin program.

She lives in Berlin with her husband, the composer and pianist Daniel Sutton, and their son Joshua.