



German mezzo-soprano Julia Oesch has appeared internationally as an opera singer. She performs in leading theaters, such as at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, opera houses in Hannover, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, in Italy (Venice, Palermo, Naples, Cagliari, Verona, Trieste, Rome, Catania), in Vienna (Austria), in France, in Spain, in Switzerland, in Portugal and in Bangkok (Thailand). Acclaimed music festivals have invited Ms. Oesch as an opera and concert singer, i.e. the Tanglewood Music Center and the Ravinia Festival in the USA, the Tiroler Festspiele in Erl, the Richard Wagner Festival in Wels, the Wiener Festwochen and the Salzburger Festspiele (all in Austria), as well as the French Festival in Aix-en-Provence and the March Music Days in Bulgaria, where she sang Mahler's *Lied von der Erde*. Recently she appeared at the International Festival *Dein Lied* in Rothenburg ob der Tauber/Germany.

Artistic key aspects

In her opera repertoire her engagements cover the works by Richard Wagner, i.e. the roles of her Fach in the *Ring des Nibelungen*: *Erda* (*Rheingold* & *Siegfried*), *Floßhilde* (*Rheingold*), *Fricka* (*Rheingold* & *Walküre*), *Rossweisse*, *Schwertleite*, *Siegrune* (*Walküre*), *1. Norne*, *Waltraute* (*Götterdämmerung*); *Parsifal* (*Kundry*); *Der fliegende Holländer* (*Mary*). Furthermore her roles include *Orfeo* from *Orfeo & Euridice*, Mozart's *3. Dame* from *Die Zauberflöte* or *Margret* from Berg's *Wozzek*. Conductors, such as Christian Thielemann, Seiji Ozawa, Gustav Kuhn and Roberto Paternostro are most important in Julia Oesch's career.

Concert and church music continue to be important aspects in Julia Oesch's performing career. She has been praised for her passionate and expressive style. Her radiant tone was described in the Boston Globe as "rich-toned". Her repertoire in oratorio includes *Elias* by Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, the *Messa da Requiem* by Giuseppe Verdi, Bach's *Christmas-Oratorio*, the *Johannes-Passion*, the *B-Minor Mass* and the *Matthäus-Passion*, Händel's *Messiah*, the *Requiem* by Mozart and the *Symphony No. 9* by Ludwig van Beethoven, the *Alto-Rhapsody* by Johannes Brahms, Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No.8* (Contralto II/ *Maria Aegyptiaca*) and *Das Lied von der Erde* and *Six Songs* op.13 by Alexander von Zemlinsky are the symphonic compositions in her repertoire.

cont.

Training

Julia Oesch's musical studies began with playing the violin. While studying at the Frankfurt Conservatory she also received voice lessons from Karin Geber-Brandt who is still advising her vocally. In 1992 Julia Oesch continued to study voice at the Musikhochschule Detmold with Ingeborg Ruß. In the summer of 1994 she was a scholarship recipient at the Tanglewood Music Center. There she met and worked with Phyllis Curtin and Seiji Ozawa. She earned her Master of Music Diploma at Boston University in 1997, studying with Phyllis Curtin. Julia Oesch received additional training in masterclasses with such artists as Barbara Bonney, Christa Ludwig, Thomas Hampson, Brigitte Fassbaender and Gustav Kuhn.

Duo Songways – Staging – Coaching -- Violin

As a free-lance artist Julia Oesch represents a broad variety of projects. In 2008 she performed for the first time songs and scenes under her own stage direction at the First FrauenKunstFestival (Women Arts Festival) in Worms (Germany). TV stations accompanied the festival and broadcasted their reports. This activity led to many more self-staged concerts which provide a unique character in the chamber music genre.

Together with the pianist Jens Barnieck she founded the *Duo Songways* and is performing mainly American compositions, since both artists studied and lived in the USA. This year's programs are enriched by Julia Oesch, playing the violin.

In 2015/16 she was a participant and violinist of the New Year's tour through China with the *Philharmonic Film Orchestra/Berlin*, under the baton of Maestra Christiane Silber.

Recently she was appointed as principal violinist of the 2nd violins of the *Orchestra Pfalz* and the concerts with the work *The Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins.

Coaching and teaching become more important for her. Meanwhile she maintains her own studio for voice and violin. At the Nationaltheater Mannheim she teaches opera chorus members. In the semester 2015/16 she had a teaching position at the Musikhochschule Lübeck. She loves to work with young students and to prepare them for their professional careers. Due to her own staging projects she is offering now workshops on improvisational theater and has received enthusiastic feed-backs.

Recordings/DVDs

Julia Oesch' discography encloses the complete edition of Richard Wagner's *Ring des Nibelungen* (Arte Nova label): *Das Rheingold: Erda; Die Walküre: Fricka; Siegfried: Erda; Götterdämmerung: 1. Norne*. Furthermore she recorded Verdi's *La Traviata (Annina)*, *Die tote Stadt (Lucienne)* by Erich W. Korngold (DVD) and *Die ägyptische Helena (Elfe)* by Richard Strauss. In 2014 she published a CD with best ofs the *Duo Songways* and the title *Never too Late to Love!*

Julia lives in Frankenthal/Germany, together with her two children Maya and Simon.