



## HARRISON PARROTT

### Anu Komsu Soprano

Known for her “technical daring” (*The Times*) and “pyrotechnic grace” (*New Yorker*), Anu Komsu is one of the world’s foremost singers. A regular and iconic collaborator with myriad contemporary composers, Komsu’s performances often serve as the blueprint for future productions, and she continues to bring fresh and affecting interpretations to traditional roles and concert repertoire. Throughout her eminent career, she has worked with leading conductors including Sir Roger Norrington, Sakari Oramo, Andris Nelsons, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Alan Gilbert, Franz Welser-Möst, Peter Eötvös, George Benjamin, Martyn Brabbins, Dalia Stasevska, Hannu Lintu, Santtu-Matias Rouvali, Anna-Maria Helsing, Tarmo Peltokoski, and distinguished directors such as Pierre Audi, Barrie Kosky, Lydia Steier, Simon Stone, Achim Freyer, Karin Beier, Christoph Loy, Juho Kuosmanen and Leea Klemola.

Komsu opens the 2024/25 season at BBC Proms, collaborating with the Sibelius Academy and Royal College of Music Symphony Orchestra to give the world premiere Lara Poe’s *Laulut maaseudulta* (‘Songs from the Countryside’). Following the Proms, Komsu performs with Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Helsinki Philharmonic, Gurzenich Orchestra, and BBC Symphony Orchestra. A dedicated advocate of contemporary music, she sings works by Kaija Saariaho, Jukka Tiensuu, Aarre Merikanto, and Heidi Sundblad-Halme, as well as performing core repertoire such as Berlioz’s *Nuits D’été*, Mahler’s Symphonies, Sibelius’ *‘Luonnotar’*, and Strauss’ *Vier Letzte Lieder* amongst others.

Operatic highlights this season include Semperoper Dresden - reprising her role as the Mother-in-law in Saariaho’s *Innocence* - and previous seasons highlights include playing Queen of the Night in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*, titular roles in Strauss’s *Salome*, Berg’s *Lulu*, Holliger’s *Schneewittchen*, Eötvös’s *Lady Sarashina* and Poulenc’s *Tiresias*, Catherine in Meyerbeer’s *L’Étoile du nord*, Eva in Stockhausen’s *Donnerstag aus Licht*, and the sole role in Feldman’s *Neither*, appearing at prestigious opera companies and festivals such as Opéra national de Paris, Teatro alla Scala Milan, Lucerne Festival, Salzburg Festival and Savonlinna Opera Festival and Helsinki Festival.

Amongst the many pieces specially written for Komsu, repertoire highlights include Saariaho’s *Leino Songs* and *Saarikoski Songs*, Benjamin’s *Into the Little Hill*, Chin’s *Cantatrix Sopranica*, the role of ‘President Kekkonen’ in H-J Hofmann’s *Ahti Karjalainen – Life, Kekkonen and Works*, Christian Mason’s *Man Made*, Salonen’s *Floof* and *Wing on Wing*, Jukka Tiensuu’s *Voice Verser* and *Double Concerto*, *‘Ihmeperi’*, and the 2020 revision of Magnus Lindberg’s *Accused*.

Komsu boasts an extensive discography, including her internationally lauded rendition of Sibelius’ *Luonnotar*, Kurtág’s *Kafka Fragments*, Zimmermann’s *Soldaten Symphony* and Fagerlund’s *Döbeln*, and J. Zorn, *‘Machine de L’être’*. She has featured on three Gramophone Award-winning recordings: Rued Langgaard’s *Symphony No. 2* with Wiener Philharmoniker under Sakari Oramo, Saariaho’s *Leino Songs* with Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Jonathan Harvey’s *White as Jasmine* with BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Her latest album *Sumun Läpi (Through the Mist)* features songs with piano by Saariaho.

As Founder, Artistic Director and Managing Director of West Coast Kokkola Opera for 14 seasons, Komsu oversaw Kokkola Opera Summer Festival which produced 25 full-scale opera productions, as well as over 100 concerts and events. Critically acclaimed as stage director in Puccini’s *Suor Angelica*, Weill’s *Der Silbersee* and operas by Vivaldi and Detlev Glanert. A champion of new music, Komsu was awarded the Madetoja Prize by The Finnish Composers’ Society in 2020 and received the prestigious Erik Bergman Prize in 2021 for special achievements in performing and commissioning new vocal repertoire internationally.

2024/25 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.



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