Anu Komsi
Soprano

Known for her “technical daring” (*The Times*) and “captivating crystalline quality” (*Bachtrack)*, Anu Komsi is one of the world’s foremost singers. A regular and iconic collaborator with myriad contemporary composers, Komsi’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, François-Xavier Roth, Martyn Brabbins, Dalia Stasevska, Nicholas Collon, 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.

In the 2023/24 season, Komsi performs alongside Sakari Oramo with the likes of BBC Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre philharmonique de Radio France, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and appears at Dvořák Prague Festival and Kissinger Sommer. Ever-dedicated to contemporary music, she sings local and world premieres of works by Kaija Saariaho, George Benjamin, Sebastian Hilli, Lara Poe, as well as continuing to perform Ellington’s *Sacred Concert*, Bach’s oratorios, Strauss’ *Vier Letzte Lieder*, Mahler’s symphonies and Sibelius’ songs.

Operatic highlights from previous seasons include playing Queen of the Night in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*, Mother-in-Law in Saariaho’s *Innocence*, titular roles in Strauss’s *Salome,* Berg’s *Lulu*, Holliger’s *Schneewittchen,* Eötvös’s *Lady Sarashina* andPoulenc’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.

Amongst the many pieces specially written for Komsi, repertoire highlights include Saariaho’s *Leino Songs* and *Saarikoski Songs*, Benjamin’s *Into the Little Hill*, Jukka Tiensuu’s *Voice Verser* and *Double Concerto, ‘Ihmepari’*, Salonen’s *Floof* and *Wing on Wing*, Chin’s *Cantatrix Sopranica*, Christian Mason’s *Man Made*, and the 2020 revision of Magnus Lindberg’s *Accused*.

Komsi boasts an extensive discography, including her internationally lauded rendition of Sibelius’ *Luonnotar,* Kurtág’*s Kafka Fragments,* Zimmermann’s *Soldaten Symphony* andFagerlund’s *Döbeln*.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 pianoby Saariaho.

As Founder, Artistic Director and Managing Director of West Coast Kokkola Opera for 14 seasons, Komsi oversaw Kokkola Opera Summer Festival which produced 25 full-scale opera productions, as well as over 100 concerts and events. She was 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, Komsi 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.