

Astrid Kessler - Soprano

Astrid Kessler started her vocal training at the age of 16 at the International School of Seoul, South Korea. After an acting course at the Oswego State University in New York she studied classical singing at the Hochschule für Musik in Nuremberg with Prof. Elisabeth Kovacs, afterwards continuing her education under the instruction of Prof. Reiner Goldberg in Berlin and Prof. Peter Anton Ling in Hannover.



A prize winner in the German category at the 2018 International Meistersinger Nuremberg competition, Astrid Kessler can be seen in the 2018/2019 season as Eva in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at the Nationaltheater Mannheim conducted by Alexander Soddy. At the Theater Chemnitz she will perform her debut as Sieglinde in *Die Walküre* and will also sing this role at the Ludwigburger Festspiele alongside Klaus Florian Vogt and Catherine Foster. For the second season she can be seen at the Staatstheater Saarbrücken as Abigaille in Verdi's *Nabucco*.

In 2017 Astrid Kessler performed as a guest at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein as Angèle Didier in Franz Lehar's Operette *Der Graf von Luxemburg*. At the Wiener Volksoper she debuted in the title role in Alfredo Catalani's *Wally* conducted by Marc Piollet, and debuted in Mannheim as the Feldmarschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier* and Elisabeth in Wagner's *Tannhäuser*.

In her current engagement in the ensemble of the Nationaltheater Mannheim Astrid Kessler has sung all the major roles of her *Fach*, such as Liú (*Turandot*, Puccini), Nedda (*Pagliacci*, Leoncavallo), Contessa Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*, Mozart), Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*, J. Strauss), Hanna Glawari (*The Merry Widow*, Léhar), Alice Ford (*Falstaff*, Verdi), Mimí (*La Bohème*, Puccini) and Micaela (*Carmen*, Bizet), and has made debuts as The Governess in Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and as Rachel in Halevy's *La Juive*, directed by Peter Konwitschny.

In 2014 Astrid Kessler performed her acclaimed debut as Emeric Kálmán's *Graefin Mariza* and guest performed in the same year as Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Deutscher Oper am Rhein in Dusseldorf and Duisburg.

Alongside numerous other engagements, Astrid Kessler has performed at the Teatro Real Madrid, as Verdi's *Giovanna d'Arco* at the Theater Bielefeld and at the Dresden Staatsoperette as Sonja in Franz Léhar's Operette *Der Zarewitsch*. Astrid Kessler started her career at the Theater Osnabrück as Donna Elvira and Angèle Didier.

Press:

Saarbrücken – Nabucco:

Dynamic, iridescent and lithe, sexy, self-confident and dominant she commands the stage. Astrid Kessler acts out every nuance of this conflicted character, her voice floats dreamily in tender lyrical passages and rages in dramatic coloraturas, music and emotion form an inseparable whole in her fascinating performance. (*Konstanze Fuhrbeck, Rheinpfalz – 11.06.2018*)

Mannheim – Rosenkavalier:

Astrid Kessler bestows purest soprano-gold as the warm-hearted Feldmarschallin, from the night of love with Octavian in a silver-blue no-mans-land to the smiling renunciation of the finale. During the deeply-felt "time monologue" the public literally held its breath. (*Mannheimer Morgen – 21.11.2017*)

Mannheim – Genoveva:

... standing out above all was Astrid Kessler in the emotionally complex title role, admirably expending herself without consideration of sonic prettiness." (*FAZ – 06.05.2017*)

Mannheim - La Juive:

Astrid Kessler's Rachel is spectacular; singing the highly-demanding role free and unforced, her acting agile and effortless. (*Frankfurter Rundschau - 11.01.16*)

Kessler's highly expressive singing and presence on stage get under the skin. (*Die deutsche Bühne - 12.01.2016*)

Volksoper - Countess Mariza:

Astrid Kessler portrays [this heavily nicotine-craving Mariza] as a woman as hurtful as she is hurtable, who one would happily send to a session with Freud. Kessler impresses the most vocally, too: her powerful soprano can add on the decisive wattage when orchestra and choir are already at their fullest. (*DiePresse.com* - 23.04.14)

Bielefeld - Giovanna d'Arco:

With her powerful, emotional voice, her acting, and a feel for the nuances of the inner dialogues, she created her Giovanna... a delicate, vulnerable girl, victim of her patriotic disposition and the foulest betrayal. An abused heroine. (*Der Opernfreund*)

Mannheim - The Turn of the Screw:

..outstanding the young soprano Astrid Kessler as Governess, who with her first big role in Mannheim has sung herself straight to the front, and who convincingly expressed the ambivalence between possessive love and psychosexual neurosis. (*Opernwelt* - Sep/Okt. 2013)

Theater Osnabrueck - Don Giovanni:

The newly engaged singer Astrid Kessler places this character into the centre of the staging: she suffers the strongest, fights the fiercest, and humiliates herself the most: her aria „Mi tradi“, due to her fine, voluminous voice becomes the musical climax of the evening. She enters for the banquet as a cheap slapper - the most tragic moment of the evening. (*Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung* 10.10.2011)

Berlin, E-Werk - Così fan tutte:

Above all, Astrid Kessler (Fiordiligi) turned out to be an extremely expressive actress and fabulous singer. The beautiful sound of her voice effortlessly filled every corner of the hall. It was enjoyable to observe her ability to reduce the power of her voice to give room for the weaker voices to unfold within the ensemble. (*Opernglas* - January 2010)

Repertoire:

Catalani	Wally (dt)	La Wally
Halevy	Rachel	La Juive
Kálmán	Mariza	Gräfin Mariza
	Fedora	Zirkusprinzessin
Léhar	Angèle Didier	Graf von Luxemburg
	Sonja	Der Zarewitsch
	Hanna Glawari	Die Lustige Witwe
Leoncavallo	Nedda	Pagliacci
Mozart	Elettra	Idomeneo
	Erste Dame	Die Zauberflöte
	Donna Elvira	Don Giovanni
	Contessa	Le nozze di Figaro
Puccini	Mimi	La Bohème
	Suor Angelica (konzert.)	Suor Angelica
Schumann	Genoveva	Genoveva
R. Strauss	Feldmarschallin	Rosenkavalier
J. Strauß	Rosalinde	Fledermaus
Tschaikowsky	Iolanta	Iolanta
Verdi	Giovanna	Giovanna d'arco
	Alice Ford	Falstaff
	Abigaille	Nabucco
Wagner	Eva	Meistersinger
	Elisabeth	Tannhäuser
	Sieglinde/Gutrune	Loriot-Ring
	Sieglinde	Walküre
	Siegrune	Walküre
	3. Norn	Götterdämmerung
	Blumenmädchen 1. I.	Parsifal