

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.

In the current season, Astrid Kessler makes her debut in the title role in *Arabella* at the Leipzig Opera, as Ellen Orford in Britten's *Peter Grimes*, and as Desdemona in Verdi's *Otello*, both at the Nationaltheater Mannheim conducted by Alexander Soddy. She will sing for the first time at the Staatsoper Hannover in the role of Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus*, a role she performed at the 2019 New Year's Concert at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg.

A prize winner in the German repertoire category at the 2018 International Meistersinger Nuremberg competition, Astrid Kessler has performed the Wagnerian roles of Eva in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, Elisabeth in *Tannhäuser*, and Sieglinde in *Die Walküre* alongside Catherine Foster and Klaus Florian Vogt. Other acclaimed performances include Feldmarschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and Abigaille in Verdi's *Nabucco*.

Astrid Kessler has performed as a guest at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Dusseldorf as Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and as Angèle Didier in Franz Lehar's operetta *Der Graf von Luxemburg*. A successful debut at the Vienna Volksoper in the title role of Emmerich Kalman's *Gräfin Mariza* was followed Alfredo Catalani's *Wally*, conducted by Marc Piollet.

In her current engagement in the ensemble of the Nationaltheater Mannheim Astrid Kessler has developed a wide-ranging repertoire, including Liú (*Turandot*, Puccini), Nedda (*Pagliacci*, Leoncavallo), Mimí (*La Bohème*, Puccini), Contessa Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*, Mozart), Hanna Glawari (*The Merry Widow*, Léhar) Iolanta (Tchaikovsky) and Alice Ford (*Falstaff*, Verdi). Notable debuts have included The Governess in Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and Rachel in Halevy's *La Juive*, directed by Peter Konwitschny.



Press:

Walküre

Klaus Florian Vogt as a clear and charismatic Siegmund and Astrid Kessler as an uncommonly assured and vocally gleaming Sieglinde developed into a dream couple of the Wagnerian tonal language. (Online Merker, Alexander Walther – 02.03.2019)

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*)

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*)

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*)

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*)

Repertoire:

Britten	Ellen Orford	Peter Grimes
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