

POLINA PASTIRCHAK

Polina Pastirchak was born in Budapest as the second daughter of a Hungarian father and a Russian mother. Her parents are designers, as well as her sister, Larisza Pasztircsak is founder of the fashion label Mrs Herskin.

Ms Pastirchak began studying voice at the age of 19 with her first teacher, Julia Bikfalvy in Budapest. In 2004 she won the Simandy National Singing Competition. She continued her musical studies in Italy as a pupil of Mirella Freni. In 2010 she completed her degree in Conservatorio Girolamo Frescobaldi in Ferrara. In addition to her musical studies, she attained a degree in Cultural Management at the West Hungarian University. Her current teachers are Carol Richardson-Smith and Jeffrey Smith in Hannover.

In 2007 she made her operatic debut in Modena in a contemporary opera of Lorenzo Ferrero, *Le Piccole Storie*. Here at Teatro Comunale di Modena, in the next season, she sang with great success the role of Micaela. Her international breakthrough came in 2009 when she won the first prize and all special prizes at the Geneva Music Competition. In 2011 she sang *Partenope* at the Handel festival in Karlsruhe, in 2013 *Woglinde* in the new ring production of grand theatre Genève. Since 2011 she is regularly guesting at the Hungarian State Operahouse with roles like *Desdemona*, *Amelia*, *Nedda*, *Violetta*, *Melisande*, *Mimi*, *Micaela*, *Donna Anna*, *Contessa*. In 2014 she made an important debut as Strauss's *Daphne* conducted by Zoltán Kocsis. She returns every year at Adam Fischer's Budapest Wagner Festival as *Gutrune*. In 2016 she sang *Vespina* in *Cavalli's Veremonda* at the Schwetzingen Festival, *Mimi* in St. Gallen. Later she sang *Traviata* at the Capitole de Toulouse and *Humperdinck's Königskinder* in Oper Graz. Since 2019 is regularly working with Rene Jacobs and the Freiburger Barockorchester with whom she sang *Donna Anna*.

Ms Pastirchak is also in demand as a concert soloist, for example with Beethoven's IX. and Mahler's IV., which she sang with Adam Fischer, Christian Arming, Henrik Nanasi and Clemens Schuldt. In 2019 she recorded Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with Harmonia Mundi, Rene Jacobs and the Freiburger Barockorchester. In the same year Sony recorded Shostakovich's XIV. *Symphonie* with Michael Sanderling and the Dresdner Philharmonie. In 2011 she sang Mozart *Arien* with Sabine Meyer, Andreas Spering and the Basel Kammerorchester at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, which was also recorded by Sony. In Mahler's VIII. *Symphonie* she sang *Una Poenitentium* conducted by Adam Fischer in Düsseldorf. At the occasion of Arvo Pärt's 80 birthday she sang *Como Cierva Sedia* conducted by Gabor Takács-Nagy in Manchester in the presence of the composer. As soprano soloist she sang furthermore Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang* (Thomas Dausgaard, Swedish Chamber Orchestra), *Elias* (György Vashegyi, Orfeo Orchestra), *Berlioz's Les Nuits d'Ete* and *Verdi's Requiem* (Francesco Angelico, Tiroler Symphonieorchester, Sinfonia Varsovia), *Strauss Vier letzte Lieder* (Alejo Perez, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande), *Ravel Sheherazade* (Vassily Sinaisky, Hungarian National Philharmonic), *Händel's Brockes Passion* (Howard Arman, Capella Savaria), *Bach Cantatas* (Maurice Steger, Concerto Köln), *Beethoven's Egmont* (Nikolai Alexeev, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra).

In gala concerts she sang as a partner of Plácido Domingo, Jose Carreras, Erwin Schrott and Jose Cura. She enjoys singing operetta in festive concerts such as in the Concertgebouw Amsterdam with Marc Albrecht, Palermo and Vicenza with Gabor Takács-Nagy, in Köln with Helmut Froschauer and in Kazan with Aleksander Sladkovsky.

A significant part of her singing activity are chamber concerts and song recitals with her pianist, Jan Philip Schulze, such as in the Züricher Tonhalle, Marburger Konzertverein, Radio France, Budapest Spring Festival, Mahler Festival in Toblach, Sommets Musicaux Gstaad, Capitole Toulouse, Jewish Summer Festival, kamara.hu Festival, etc.