Biography

Melanie Schneider, born in Ludwigsburg, Germany, has been singing from an early age. First vocal tuition she received from Prof. Thomas Pfeiffer, Stuttgart. She studied with Prof. Christiane Hampe at the Music Conservatory Karlsruhe and graduated with honors. She was a recipient of scholar-ships by the Richard-Wagner-Foundation and the DAAD. Masterclasses with Prof. Klesie Kelly-Moog, Cologne - with whom she still works on a regular basis and Hilde Zadek completed her training.

While still a student Melanie Schneider sang as a step-in the part of Queen of the Night (*Magic Flute*) at the Stadttheater Pforzheim and, following her graduation, her first part on stage: that of *Juliette* *Vermont* in Franz Lehar’s The Count of Luxembourg.

As a soloist of the Regensburg Theatre she sang important roles as a lyric coloratura soprano, such as: *Queen of the Night* (Magic Flute), *Fiakermilli* (Arabella), *Adina* (L’elisir d’amore), *Oscar* (Un Ballo in Maschera), *Marzelline* (Fidelio), *Zerlina* (Don Giovanni), *Annina* (A night in Venice).

As a very flexible and courageous step-in she successfully sang at many German, Austrian and Swiss theaters, such as Munich (Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz), Salzburg, Magdeburg, Kaiserslautern, Hanover State Opera, Passau, Coburg, Lübeck, Leipzig, Luzern, Trier and many more. She always returns as a highly appreciated guest.

During the 2006/2007 season she was a member of the theatre ensemble at the Munich Gärtnerplatz State Opera where she appeared as *Queen of the Night* (Magic Flute Conductor: Matthias Altstaedt/David Stahl) and *Hortense* (Der Opernball). In 2008 Melanie Schneider made her debut as *Adele* (Die Fledermaus/The Bat*,* Conductor: Herbert Mogg) at the Schlosstheater Schönbrunn in Vienna, a part which she also sang on a very successful tour of Spain and at the Ulm Theatre, as well as the Gasteig in Munich.

In 2010 she sang in the newly discovered Il ritorno d’Ulisse by Simon Mayr the parts of *Minerva/Asteria.* Also in 2010 she was *Annina* (A Night in Venice) at the Musikalische Komödie, Leipzig (Conductor: Roland Seiffarth). In 2011 she made her very well received debut as *Ilia* in Mozart’s Idomeneo at the theatre in Passau where she also sang *Amore* and *Valletto* in Monteverdi’s L’Incoronazione di Poppea (Stage Director: Kobie van Rensburg/ML Wolfgang Katschner).

Being highly successful at singing Operetta she was engaged to sing *Sora* in Millöcker’s Gasparone at the Lehar-Festival Bad Ischl in Austria during the summer of 2013 and returned to the theatre in Pforzheim as *Christel* (The Bird Seller) during the 2013/2014 season. At the Regensburg Theatre she sang the role of *Aunt* in Purcell’s The Fairy Queen, also in the 2013/2014 season. Her latest appearance was as *Christel* in Carl Zeller’s The Bird Seller at the Theatre Plauen-Zwickau in the running season.

Apart from her operatic appearances Melanie Schneider is a passionate Lied singer and has acquired a wide-ranging concert- and sacred-music repertoire. As a soloist she has successfully sung the leading parts of many great oratories such as Händel’s *Messiah*, Bach’s *Christmas Oratory*, his Solo-Cantatas *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen* and *Ich bin vergnügt mit meinem Glücke*, *Mass in B-Minor*, Haydn’s *Stabat Mater*, *The Seasons*, *Nelson-Mass*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, *Paulus*, *Hear my Prayer* and *Psalm 42*, Mozart’s *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, Charpentier’s *Te Deum* and many more.