

# Nikola Hillebrand

## English Biography

The German soprano Nikola Hillebrand was born in Recklinghausen, in the heart of North-West Germany. She performs regularly throughout Germany and the rest of Europe and this season will be part of the resident ensemble of Nationaltheater Mannheim. In July 2017, Nikola made her debut at Bavarian State Opera as she jumped in as Azema in the run of Rossini's *Semiramide* during the Opernfestspiele.

Nikola began her studies aged 17 at the Hochschule for Music and Theatre, under the guidance of Professor Fenna Kugel-Seifried. During her studies in Munich, Nikola made her professional debut as Belinda in *Dido & Aeneas* at Theater Bonn and went on to play Papagena and Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*) as well as Marzeline in a new production of *Fidelio*.

In the summer of 2015, she made her debut at Glyndebourne as Blondchen in David McVicar's new production of *Entführung aus dem Serail*. Nikola was invited to return to Glyndebourne the following season, playing the role of Barbarina and covering the role of Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*. She became the 50th recipient of the John Christie Award in her debut season with Glyndebourne. This is awarded in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Musicians to a young singer who has shown exceptional promise through their work during the season.

As part of Nationaltheater Mannheim's ensemble 2016/17, Nikola has gone on to play the roles of Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Oscar (*Un ballo in maschera*) and Despina (*Così fan tutte*). Her roles in the upcoming season in Mannheim include Queen of the night as well as her role debuts as Sophie (*Rosenkavalier*) and Poppea (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*).

Nikola feels equally at home on the concert platform. Her recent concert repertory includes; Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Exultate Jubilate*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

Amongst all the vocal disciplines, art song holds a special place in Nikola's heart. She enjoys paralleling the finesse and delicacy required for song interpretation alongside the extravagance and flamboyance of many of the characters she interprets on the stage. The composers of R. Strauss, Schumann, Schubert, Mozart, and Debussy can be found frequently in her recital programs.