

# Solen Mainguené

SOPRANO — LYRICO SPINTO

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## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Solen Mainguené is a lyric soprano from Orange, in the south of France. An ensemble member of Oper Leipzig, she appears on stages across Europe in the lyrico spinto and jugendlich dramatisch repertoire.

Known for her emotional interpretations, rich voice, acting skill and solar stage charisma, she loves to blur the line between straight acting and opera — creating realistic, complex female protagonists.

Her career began at the Hamburg State Opera, where as a resident artist she performed more than twenty roles. As a freelance artist she appeared at Theater Freiburg, Oper Halle, Malmö Opera, Opéra Grand Avignon, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe and many others, in roles such as Mimì, Violetta, Manon, Antonia, Liù, Nedda, Tatjana and the Governess. Since 2023 she has been a member of the ensemble of Oper Leipzig, where she has added Desdemona, Lisa, the Marschallin, Guttrune, Alice Ford and Giorgetta to her repertoire. She has been nominated three times by the magazine *Opernwelt*.

## FULL BIOGRAPHY

Solen Mainguené began her vocal studies at the Conservatoire de Rennes, followed by a Bachelor on a merit scholarship at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and a Master in the Opernklasse of the Mozarteum University Salzburg, completing her formation as a member of the Hamburg State Opera's Opera Studio. She attended masterclasses with Montserrat Caballé, Anna Tomowa-Sintow, Cheryl Studer, Marilyn Horne, Barbara Bonney, Neil Schicoff, Grace Bumbry, Sophie Koch and Dame Ann Murray, and benefited from the mentoring of the conductors Simone Young and Michel Plasson. She currently studies with the American vocal pedagogue Neil Semer and the vocal coach and conductor Christina Dominik.

She began her career at the Hamburg State Opera, where, as a resident artist, she performed more than twenty roles and built the foundation of her lyrical repertoire, among them Musetta, Micaëla, First Lady and the Flower Maiden in *Parsifal*. As a freelance artist, she continued to refine and expand her repertoire across Germany and Europe, performing roles such as Mimì, Violetta, Manon, Antonia, Liù, Nedda, Rosalinde, Tatjana, Contessa and the Governess. Her engagements included Theater Freiburg, Theater Aachen, Theater Dessau, Staatstheater Braunschweig, Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen, Oper Halle, Oper Leipzig, Malmö Opera, Opéra Grand Avignon, Opéra de Massy, Opéra de Clermont-Ferrand, Opéra de Vichy, Opéra de Reims and Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe.

In 2023 she joined the ensemble of Oper Leipzig, where she began exploring a more spinto and jugendlich dramatisch repertoire, adding roles such as Desdemona, Lisa, the Marschallin, Guttrune and Alice Ford, as well as Giorgetta in Puccini's *Il Tabarro*. In the 2026/27 season she returns as Mimì in Konwitschny's production of *La bohème* and as Micaëla in *Carmen*, appears as Giorgetta in *Il Tabarro* under Ivan Repušić, and revisits Nedda in a new production of Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*. Alongside her work in Leipzig she is expanding her international career, appearing at houses including Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin, Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville, Staatsoper Hannover, Teatro Real Madrid and Prague State Opera.

A particular artistic affinity has emerged with the heroines of Richard Strauss. Her interpretations of Arabella — performed in concert and at Theater Gießen — and the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, sung twice at Oper Leipzig and at the Prague State Opera, have become central milestones in her development. She further deepened her Strauss repertoire through work on the revival of *Der Rosenkavalier* with Christian Thielemann at Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin.

She has been nominated three times by the magazine *Opernwelt* — twice as best female artist of the year, for the Governess in *The Turn of the Screw* (2019) and the title role of *Manon* (2021), both at Theater Freiburg, and in 2015 as young rising artist of the year for Catherine Earnshaw in Herrmann's *Wuthering Heights* at Theater Braunschweig. She is the 1st Prize winner and laureate of the prize for the best female interpretation of the Italian repertoire at the Clermont-Ferrand International Competition, a finalist of the Portofino and Avignon Grand Opera competitions and, most recently, of the Zenith Opera Competition in its 2026 edition.

A trained actress, Solen moves naturally between opera, theatre, film, narration and performance art. Her signature role is Jeanne d'Arc in Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher*, a spoken role she first performed alongside Fanny Ardant at the Laeiszhalle Hamburg in 2015, and for which she was Marion Cotillard's understudy at Teatro Real Madrid in 2022. Her collaborations extend into theatre and dance, including *The Threepenny Opera* at Thalia Theater Hamburg and *Die Fledermaus* in Baden, Switzerland, alongside actor Robert Hunger-Bühler. She speaks French, English and German fluently and is at home performing in Italian and Russian.