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JOSIPA BILIĆ, SOPRANO

Young Croatian soprano Josipa Bilić (25) made her professional opera debut in 2019 while being a member of the *Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb Opera-studio*. Since then, she appeared in *CNT Zagreb* as Amor in *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Gluck), Adele in *Die Flederumaus* (Strauss), Papagena in *The Magic Flute* (Mozart), Una voce dal cielo in *Don Carlo* (Verdi), and Ines in *Il Trovatore* (Verdi). Mrs. Bilić received the *Young Musician of the Year Award* from the *Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra* for her outstanding achievements in 2022. One of them certainly includes the debut in the title role of the operetta Gräffin Maritza by Franz Lehár, at the Zagreb City Theater *Komedija*. The same year she had the privilege of singing with the Graz Philharmonic Orchestra (*Grazer Philharmoniker*) conducted by Maestro Marius Burkert at the *Oper Graz* at the *Winner's Gala Concert* of the *26th International Singing Competition Ferruccio Tagliavini* where she won Third prize as well as the Audience Award. In 2020 she created the role of Gretel (Humperdinck: *Hansel and Gretel*) with *Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra* under the baton of Maestro Dawid Runtz and as a result received prestigious *Croatian Actor Award for the best female role in Opera* - Young Artists under 30.

In addition to opera and operetta, Mrs Bilić has a great passion for Lied, Oratorio and Concert repertoire. In 2021 she made her debut at the *Varaždin Baroque Festival* with *Camerata Garestin ensemble* and received *Ivan Werner Award* for the highest Young Artist' achievement at the festival. Being a member of *Chiaroscuro* ensemble, mostly specialized in baroque, she continues to perfect her early music repertory and has had the opportunity to sing with the most prominent chamber Ensemble in Croatia, the *Zagreb Soloists*, as well as with *Symphony Orchestra of Croatian Radiotelevision* and *Varaždin Chamber Orchestra*. She is the winner of the *Darko Lukić Diploma* for her recital with the pianist Jan Niković on the 55th *Darko Lukić Competition*, as well as the winner of the *19th Ferdo Livadić International Competition of Young Music Artists*.

Before finishing her musical studies *Summa Cum Laude* in her native city with prof. Lidija Horvat – Dunjko in *Zagreb Music Academy*, she has received numerous first awards at International and National Competitions: *József Simándy* (2018 and 2021), *Zoltán Kodály Award* - ISA (2019), *Lions grand prix* (2017), *Lav Mirski* (2016), *Vera Kovač Vitkai* (2015), *Croatian National Competition HDGPP* (2017 and 2019). During her studies, she particularly drew attention in student productions of Massenet's Cendrillon as the main heroine (2021), in Mozart's *Idomeneo* as Ilia (2020), in Mozart's *Cosi fan tutté* as Despina (2018), as well as a Soprano Soloist in Bach's *Markus Passion*, Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Krönungsmesse*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and *Stabat Mater*.

Mrs. Bilić participated in many masterclasses with prominent artists such as Rainer Trost, Claudia Visca, Michael Schade, Florian Boesch, Lucy Arner, Liora Maurer, Sharon Mohar, Hans Peter Herman, Ira Siff, Matjaž Robavs, Tomislav Mužek, Rebeka Lokar, Krešimir Stražanac and Alexei Tanovitski.