

MAGDALENA KOŽENÁ

Full length: 600 words

Born in the Czech city of Brno, mezzo-soprano **Magdalena Kožená** studied voice and piano at the Brno Conservatory before continuing her studies with Eva Bláhová at Bratislava's Academy of Performing Arts. Winner of several major international prizes, she gained widespread recognition after taking first prize at the International Mozart Competition in Salzburg in 1995.



In 1999 she signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon, releasing her debut album of Bach arias on Archiv, followed by her acclaimed Czech song recital disc, which won Gramophone's Solo Vocal Award (2001). She was later named Gramophone Artist of the Year (2004) and has since received awards including the Echo Klassik, Record Academy Prize Tokyo and Diapason d'Or. Since 2017 Kožená has recorded for Pentatone, with releases ranging from *Il Giardino dei sospiri* with Václav Luks and Collegium 1704, to the chamber album *Soirée*, the duo recital disc *Nostalgia* with Yefim Bronfman, and *L'extase* with Mitsuko Uchida. Two recent, deeply personal albums with Sir Simon Rattle and the Czech Philharmonic focus on folksongs and music from her homeland (2025).

Throughout her career, Kožená has collaborated with many of the world's most distinguished conductors, among them Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, Gustavo Dudamel, Bernard Haitink, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Mariss Jansons, Sir Charles Mackerras and Sir Roger Norrington. She is a world-renowned recitalist, performing with pianists including Daniel Barenboim, Kirill Gerstein, András Schiff and Mitsuko Uchida at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, and the Aldeburgh, Edinburgh and Salzburg Festivals. A passionate advocate of historically informed performance, she works regularly with leading period-instrument ensembles such as the Venice Baroque Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Il Giardino Armonico, Les Musiciens du Louvre, La Cetra Barockorchester Basel and Le Concert d'Astrée. She is also in demand with symphony orchestras including the Berlin, Vienna and Czech Philharmonics, the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, and the Cleveland, Philadelphia and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestras.

On the opera stage she has sung at some of the most important theatres, from Salzburg Festival (Zerlina, Idamante *Idomeneo*, Carmen) to the Metropolitan Opera (Cherubino, Dorabella, Mélisande, Octavian), Staatsoper Berlin (Martinů's *Juliette*, Idamante, Charpentier's *Médée*), Glyndebourne (Idamante), Festival d'Aix-en-Provence (the Waitress in Kaija Saariaho's *Innocence*, Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni* and Cherubino) and Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona (Ottavia *Poppea*). Recent operatic highlights include the title role in *Alcina* on a major European tour with Les Musiciens du Louvre which culminated in a critically acclaimed recording, released in 2024.

Magdalena's 2025/26 season begins with a return to Lucerne Festival for Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* before embarking on a European tour of Berio's *Folk Songs* with Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and Daniel Harding. Other engagements include Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été* with the Vienna Philharmonic/Robin Ticciati and Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León/Thierry Fischer, Mahler's Fourth Symphony and Messiaen's *Poèmes pour mi* with the Czech Philharmonic, and Ondřej Adámek's *Where are you?* at Festival Présence Paris and on tour with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks in Munich, Vienna and Prague.

Recitals are central to her calendar this season, with appearances at Wigmore Hall, Peterhouse Cambridge, Oxford International Song Festival, Heidelberg Festival, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Pierre Boulez Saal Berlin, L'Auditori Barcelona, Auditorio Madrid, Filharmonie Brno and Essen Philharmonie, with partners Malcolm Martineau and lutenist Daniele Caminiti.

On the opera stage, Magdalena returns to Staatsoper Berlin for two productions: her role debut as the Fox in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* and as Mélisande in Robert Wilson's acclaimed staging. She also revisits *Alcina* in her hometown of Brno before making her debut as *Ariodante* on tour with La Cetra Barockorchester and Andrea Marcon.

In recognition of her services to French music, Kožená was appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2003.

Medium length: 350 words

Born in Brno, mezzo-soprano **Magdalena Kožená** studied voice and piano at the Brno Conservatory before continuing with Eva Bláhová at Bratislava's Academy of Performing Arts. She gained widespread recognition after winning first prize at the 1995 International Mozart Competition in Salzburg.

In 1999 she signed an exclusive contract with Deutsche Grammophon, releasing her debut album of Bach arias on Archiv, followed by her acclaimed Czech song recital disc, which won Gramophone's Solo Vocal Award (2001). Named Gramophone Artist of the Year in 2004, she has also received the Echo Klassik, Record Academy Prize Tokyo and Diapason d'Or. Since 2017 Kožená has recorded for Pentatone, with highlights including *Il Giardino dei sospiri* with Václav Luks and Collegium 1704, *Soirée* (chamber music with friends), *Nostalgia* with Yefim Bronfman, *L'extase* with Mitsuko Uchida, and her celebrated *Alcina* with Les Musiciens du Louvre (2024). Two recent albums with Sir Simon Rattle and the Czech Philharmonic explore folksongs and music from her homeland.

She has appeared with many of the world's foremost conductors, including Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, Bernard Haitink, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Mariss Jansons. A renowned recitalist, she performs regularly with pianists Daniel Barenboim, Kirill Gerstein, Andrés Schiff and Mitsuko Uchida at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Alice Tully Hall, and the Salzburg, Aldeburgh and Edinburgh Festivals. Passionate about historical performance, she collaborates with ensembles including the Venice Baroque Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Il Giardino Armonico, Les Musiciens du Louvre and La Cetra Barockorchester Basel, and appears with leading orchestras such as the Berlin, Vienna and Czech Philharmonics, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

On the opera stage she has sung at leading houses from the Salzburg Festival (*Zerlina*, *Idamante*, *Carmen*) and the Metropolitan Opera (*Cherubino*, *Dorabella*, *Mélisande*, *Octavian*) to Staatsoper Berlin (Martinů's *Juliette*, *Idamante*, Charpentier's *Médée*), Glyndebourne, Aix-en-Provence and the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona. Recent highlights include the title role in *Alcina* on tour with Les Musiciens du Louvre, culminating in a widely praised recording (2024).

In 2025/26 she returns to Lucerne Festival (*Das Lied von der Erde*), tours Berio's *Folk Songs* with Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia/Daniel Harding, and appears with the Vienna Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic and Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks. She also sings recitals across Europe and returns to Staatsoper Berlin as the Fox (*The Cunning Little Vixen*) and *Mélisande*, before debuting *Ariodante* with La Cetra Barockorchester and Andrea Marcon.

Kožená was appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2003.

Short length: 300 words

Born in Brno, mezzo-soprano **Magdalena Kožená** studied at the Brno Conservatory and with Eva Bláhová at Bratislava's Academy of Performing Arts. She won widespread recognition in 1995 after taking first prize at the International Mozart Competition in Salzburg.

An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist from 1999, she released numerous acclaimed recordings, before moving to Pentatone in 2017. Her discography spans Baroque opera, Czech song, French mélodie and major recital collaborations with Yefim Bronfman and Mitsuko Uchida, earning her awards including Gramophone Artist of the Year, the Echo Klassik, Record Academy Prize Tokyo and Diapason d'Or.

Kožená regularly appears with the world's foremost orchestras, including the Berlin, Vienna and Czech Philharmonics, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, and the Cleveland, Philadelphia and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestras, and has worked with conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, Bernard Haitink and Gustavo Dudamel. Equally celebrated as a recitalist, she has appeared with partners including Daniel Barenboim, Kirill Gerstein, Andrés Schiff and Mitsuko Uchida at Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, and the Salzburg, Aldeburgh and Edinburgh Festivals.

On the opera stage she has sung in some of the most important theatres from Salzburg Festival to the Metropolitan Opera, Staatsoper Berlin, Glyndebourne Festival, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, the Liceu Barcelona and many more, performing roles in operas by Monteverdi through to Kaja Saariaho. This season, she returns to her beloved Staatsoper Berlin for her role debut as the Fox *Cunning Little Vixen* and *Mélisande Pélleas et Mélisande*, and makes her role debut as *Ariodante* in a weighty European tour with La Cetra Barockensemble.

Concert highlights of the 2025/26 season include Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* at the Lucerne Festival, a European tour of Berio's *Folk Songs* with Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and Daniel Harding, Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été* with the Vienna Philharmonic, and further concerts with the Czech Philharmonic and Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks and others.

Magdalena was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2003.

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