

Sicilian-Danish-American Soprano Venicia Sandria Rasmussen, **“is definitely one of the best in her field”** Conductor Hartmut Mende **“ Venicia shines, she is charged with positive energy, a power-woman”** (Wormser Zeitung). Recently named **"La Future Diva"**...**“with her powerful and multi-faceted voice..”** by *Dernières Nouvelles D'Alsace* magazine, after embodying the roles of *Mimi*, *Ciò-Ciò San*, *Rusálka*, *Violetta* and *Tosca* on her first opera tour in the grand theaters of China (2018/19) with Italian Philharmonic **"Orchestra Abruzzese."** In 2019/2020, Venicia had great success again in Asia, performing in 18 opera theaters like *Beijing and Shanghai Opera*, within 22 days throughout China, singing *Tosca*, *Musetta*, *Violetta*, *Lucia*, *Ciò-Ciò San* and a Italian concert program including Chinese Arias.

Venicia earned her triple degree Bachelor of Music in Opera, Vocal performance, Pedagogy and Liedgesang/Kammermusik with Magna cum laude in 2014 and her Master of Music with Magna cum laude in Opera singing at the *University for Music in Karlsruhe*, Germany in 2017. She is a high scholar and captivating performer of scholarships: *Richard Wagner Verband*, *Organization Yehudi Menuhin's Stiftung* **“Live Music Now,”** *Heinrich Hertz Stiftung*, *DAAD*, *Milan Panic Organization*, etc.

In Winter 2023/24, Venicia will return as the main soloist with the **“Orchestra Abruzzese”** for an Opera tour in China's notable opera houses/arena's, under the baton of Nicola Marasco. In Summer 2023, she debuted at the Carnegie Hall as *Ciò-Ciò San*, with a Laureate Finale Award from Progressive Musicians. This July she performed the role of *Elisa (My Fair Lady)*, *Maria (West Side Story)* and *Bess (Pory and Bess)* at the open-air festival *Volksschauspiele Ötigheim*. She also embodied the role of *Elisabeth (Don Carlos)* and *Ciò-Ciò San* at the Werktheater München. In December 2022 she released her first composed single to her Album, **“Freeyer”** an Earth Anthem written for World Peace.

In 2022, Venicia had the honor to perform at the world-renown *Volksschauspiele Ötigheim* with the roles of: *Gilda*, *Rosina* and *Violetta*. Ms. Rasmussen debuted at *Teatro del Casinò di Sanremo* with *Violetta* and *Ciò-Ciò San* with the *Sinfonica di Sanremo* under the baton of Alfredo Sorichetti in June 2022.

She arrived in the Finale of *Concorso Lyric Rinaldo Pelizzoni* in 2021 and won third prize at the *International Opera Competition Anita Cerquetti* with concerts at *Teatro delle Logge* and at *Teatro del Casino di Sanremo* in September 2021. In Summer 2021, Venicia sang at the *Festival Opera Extravaganza* at *Teatro Giardina Segreto* in Vetralla, with the roles of *Mimi*, *Ciò-Ciò San* and *Juliette*. She made an enchanting stage debut with *Civitanova Opera* in the *Piazza di Madonna* in Loreto with *Violetta*. Further concerts followed with parts of; *Violetta*, *Ciò-Ciò San*, *Juliette* and a Sacred program with the *Orchestra del 7* and *Puccini Symphony Orchestra* in the *Civitanova Alta Theater* and in *Marco Sul Mare*, with conductor Alfredo Sorichetti. Due to her success, Venicia was invited to perform *Violetta* and *Juliette* at the *Teatro Greco* in Taormina (August 2021).

Venicia made her German debut with the singing/acting role of **“Walküre/Brünnhilde,”** in the world premiere of **“Glut”** at the renown *Nibelungen Festspiele* in Worms, Germany in 2017. She had the honorable joy of performing as a soloist, in the opening season of the *Elbphilharmonie* in Hamburg and at the *International Opern-Air Concert* in Bensheim, Frankfurt, 2017. In 2017-2018, Venicia was internationally engaged for her triple threat of operetta/musical singing, acting and dancing abilities. She was the lead singer on Luxury Ship tours throughout Europe - Asia and on the stages of the Middle East with a Musical/Operetta Program.

"Venicia Rasmussen is an ambitious Poppea: her soprano is pure temptation, glorious while her lustful sighs, and the whole artificiality of the figure underlined with organic queenly gestures, which are artistically guided along the music." *Christine Gehringer PAMINA Magazine*

In the *Wolfgang Rihm Forum* and "Institute for Music Theater Karlsruhe" she sang the roles of *Poppea*, *Susanna*, *Amour*, *Adele*, *Cleopatra*, *Taumann*, *Gretel*, *Lucia* and *the Cat*. At Los Angeles High School of

the Arts she embodied her first full-staged roles with Orchestra as *Contessa, Mrs. Maurant, Malwina, Juliette, Adele, Pamina and I Dame*. Ms. Rasmussen has the unforgettable experience of performing as a young soloist at concerts in *Basilica di San Pietro in Vaticano* (Rome), in *Basilica di San Marco in Venezia* on Easter, and the *Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore* (Florence) in 2004.

At age eleven, Venicia started her stage career as a young violinist performing Paganini, Mozart and Vivaldi Concertos in concert and competition in California, she was mentioned as an “***exceptional natural talent, she amazingly played Vivaldi and sang Sacred songs..a true young prodigy.***” Her early musical studies were rigorously enriched at the age of 4 through piano/composition lessons with Prof. Dr. Brennan and through violin/theory lessons with Russian-Armenian inventor/violinist Gregory Shir. Her first innate passion was for singing, but she was keen to flourish her voice naturally with musical studies and instruments, so she started singing in church choir as an Alto and Soprano, where she was scolded for singing to powerfully. With great motivation she continued her joy for Classical Singing in an exclusive Chamber Choir Ensemble, Woman Choir and Concert Choir in San Marino, CA conducted by Howard Cheung, traveling with them throughout USA and Europe as a solo Soprano at the age of 15.

Private Vocal Lessons: with KS Christa Lehnert, Julia Varady- Fischer-Dieskau, Christiane Libor, Biserka Cvejic, Milena Kitic, KS Felicia Weathers, Ines Salazar, Stephanie Vlahos, Dubravka Zubovic, Walter Donati, Amelia Felle and with coaches/ conductors: Met. Coach: Yelena Kurdina, Bo Price, Harald Braun, Howard Arman, Klaus Walz, Kosta Popovic, Matthias Hammerschmitt, Christian Gedschold, Markus Hadulla, Peter Sommer, Ulrich Eisenlohr, Ovidio Baran, Mirco Roverelli etc.

„A talent like Mrs. Rasmussen may indeed be described as absolutely extraordinary, unusual, and rare. Vocally absolutely outstanding, stylistically astonishingly versatile, of intuitive musicality and linguistic talent. In addition, essential for the stage, an innate theatrical, acting talent, enormous joy of playing and the rare gift that you can not learn, a distinctive and distinctive personality, artistic and human. For a still very young singer, Ms. Rasmussen has an unusual maturity, be it in terms of musical representation, be it in terms of her attitude to her profession, her art or her life. What gives her work a special dimension is her inquisitive, ever-searching and exploring nature, her interest in all forms of art, and a spiritual attitude to life and art. And tireless diligence! „

2017 Harald Braun : Conductor and Coach (Concert of Stabat Mater, Pergolesi in Karlsruhe)