

Mezzo-Soprano **STEPHANIE HOUTZEEL** is winning accolades for her opera and concert performances around the world. Appearances as **Octavian** in *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Vienna State Opera, the Opéra National de Paris, the Israeli Opera and the Graz Opera have been heralded as “vocally, dramatically and physically sublime” (OPERA NEWS). She was nominated one of the best up-and-coming singers by OPERNWELT Magazine for her Graz performance of the **Komponist** in *Ariadne auf Naxos* (under Philippe Jordan), and has gone on to sing this role in Zurich, Cologne, Tel Aviv, Antwerp and in 2011 at the Vienna State Opera under Sir Jeffrey Tate. She has sung all of the major Mozart roles for mezzo-soprano, most recently **Dorabella** in *Così fan tutte* in Vienna and Strasbourg, **Sesto** (*La clemenza di Tito*) in Graz and **Idamante** (*Idomeneo*) in Graz and Washington, DC. For **Sesto**, Austria’s DIE PRESSE wrote: “...rarely has one seen such a vocally outstanding and moving performance of Sesto as on this evening; thunderous applause for this world-class performance!”

Ms. Houtzeel celebrated a critical and public success as **Varvara** in the 2011 production of *Katja Kabanova* at the Vienna State Opera, conducted by Franz Welser-Möst. Notices mentioned her as “an ideal Singer-Actor” (DER STANDARD), “her voice rich in timbre and effortless in every respect” (THE OPERA CRITIC).

Ms. Houtzeel appears regularly in roles such as **Nicklausse** in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Teatro Nacional de São Carlos-Lisbon, Antwerp, St. Gallen, Linz), **Prince Orlofsky** in *Die Fledermaus*, most recently in Vienna under Franz Welser-Möst and Lyon (Emmanuel Krivine), **Marguerite** in *La Damnation de Faust* (Antwerp, Tallinn) and **Charlotte** in *Werther* (Sassari). Her debut in *Werther* was hailed by the Italian press: “A surprise, a joy, has arrived with the Italian debut of Stephanie Houtzeel - a powerful, expressive voice and outstanding stage presence.” She has also sung major roles in contemporary opera, including **Kreusa** in Reimann’s *Medea* (Vienna), **Amando** in Ligeti’s *Le Grand Macabre* (Graz), and World Premieres by Austrian composers Peter Androsch and Balduin Sulzer.

Stephanie Houtzeel’s baroque performances are wide-ranging, on stage and in concert. 2011 marked her debut at the Dresden Semperoper as **Ottavia** in Monteverdi’s *L’incoronazione di Poppea*, a role she also sang to critical acclaim at the Boston Early Music Festival. In 2010 she celebrated a successful debut at the New York City Opera as **Rosmira** in Handel’s *Partenope*. She performed and recorded the title role in Lully’s *Armide* with Opera Lafayette (on Naxos), noted by the THE WASHINGTON POST as “the outstanding performance...sung with all the ardor, intelligence and vocal luster at Houtzeel’s command, which was plenty.” Her New York appearance as **La Haine** in Gluck’s *Armide* ‘stopped the show’ according to the NEW YORK TIMES. Other baroque roles include **Juno** and **Mystery** in Purcell’s *Fairy Queen* in Rennes, Handel’s **Ariodante** in Linz and **Ino** (*Semele*) in Graz.

Ms. Houtzeel’s concert appearances include Mahler’s *Third Symphony* and *Lieder aus Des Knaben Wunderhorn* at the Vienna Musikverein and Avery Fisher Hall, appearances with the Vienna Philharmonic, the Bruckner Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Orchestre de la Monnaie, the Norddeutsche Rundfunk Orchestra, the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele, Collegium Vocale Gent, the Combattimento Consort, Ensemble MusicAeterna, the Latvian and Estonian National Symphonies, the Real Filharmonia of Galicia, the New York Festival of Song, Musicians from Marlboro, styriarte Graz, the International Bruckner Festival and Great Performers of Lincoln Center. She has collaborated in concert with conductors Dennis Russell Davies, Philippe Jordan, Pinchas Steinberg, Phillippe Herreweghe, Teodor Currentzis, Eric Ericsson, Claus Peter Flor, Karel Mark Chichon, Jérémie Rohrer and Michael Hofstetter.

In addition to the *Armide* CD, Ms. Houtzeel sings the title role on the world premiere recording of von Suppé’s *Fatinitza* (CPO). She sings the Alto solos in Mozart’s *Requiem* under rising star Teodor Currentzis on a 2011 Alpha Records release. Her CD of Handel cantatas with the Bouts Ensemble (Raumklang) garnered high marks from both THE AMERICAN RECORD REVIEW and CLASSICS TODAY.

Stephanie Houtzeel was born in Kassel, Germany and grew up near Boston. She studied at New England Conservatory and at The Juilliard School. She was the first recipient of Juilliard’s new Vocal Arts Debut Award as well as a Laureate at the International Queen Elisabeth of Belgium Competition.