**BIO MARGRETHE FREDHEIM (updated november 2020)**

Margrethe won the First Prize in The Lauritz Melchior International Singing Competition in Aalborg, October 2020, a competition focusing solely on the Wagner repertoire. In February 2020 she made her Wagner debut as Elsa in Lohengrin at Theater Erfurt. Her performance as Elsa made an impression and she was later invited to sing excerpts from Lohengrin at a Radio Gala at Theater Chemnitz. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, many performances have been cancelled, also Margrethe`s long anticipated Royal Opera House debut.  (5. Magd – Elektra)

In 2018 Margrethe won the Gold Medal and the First Prize in the inaugural Hong Kong International Singing Competition, chaired by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. She is also a laureate of the Jazeps Vitols Competition in Riga 2015, where she took home the 2nd Prize. She was a finalist, won two engagement prizes plus the Mozart Prize at the Stenhammar International Singing Competition in Norrköping in 2014. The following year she reached the finals in the DEBUT Competition in Weikersheim, the Klaudia Taev Competition in Pärnu and the 6th China International Vocal Competition. Concert work has brought her to Carnegie Hall, Cairo Opera House and the Kirsten Flagstad Festival in Norway.

Margrethe has been a member of the ensemble at Theater Erfurt since 15/16. Roles here include Elsa (Lohengrin), Zarin Militrissa (Der Märchen vom Zaren Zaltan), Micaela (Carmen), Fiordiligi (Cosi fan Tutte), Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Euridice (Orfeo ed Euridice), Pamina (Die Zauberflöte), Hanna Glawari (Die Lustige Witwe), Marenka (Die Verkaufte Braut), Miss Jessel (The Turn of the Screw) and Sister Rose (Dead Man Walking). Her biggest success next to Elsa in Lohengrin was her portrayal of Irmengard in Spontini`s «Agnes von Hohenstaufen» which received outstanding reviews in both German and international press (FAZ, Das OpernGlas, OpernWelt, Opéra Magazine). In her native Norway, Margrethe has appeared as Mimi in La Boheme with Opera Nordfjord. She has also worked at the Glyndebourne Festival Opera, as a cover on Melly Sill`s production of Rusalka.

Other opera credits include Frau Fluth in Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor at Landestheater Coburg and Theater Rudolstadt, Erste Dame in Die Zauberflöte at Tuscia Operafestival, Woglinde in Das Rheingold at Den Norske Opera og Ballett (LidalNorth), Female Chorus in The Rape of Lucretia with the same company, Contessa Ceprano in Rigoletto at Oscarsborgoperaen and Marguerite in Faust with Manhattan School of Musics Opera Studio.

Margrethe holds a performing master’s degree from Manhattan School of Music and The Norwegian Academy of Music, and a bachelor of Opera from Oslo National Academy of Arts. Master Class includes work with Thomas Hampson, Benton Hess, Karan Armstrong, Catherine Foster, Robert DeSimone and Judith Haddon. She is a Fulbright Alumni and holds stipends from RWE Dea Norge, Sine Butenschøns Fond and Tom Wilhelmsens stiftelse.

This upcoming spring, Margrethe will sing La Contessa in Le Nozze di Figaro at Theater Erfurt. In her last concert for the season, and also her last concert as a member of the ensemble in Erfurt, she will perform R. Strauss - Vier letzte lieder with the Erfurter Philharmonisches Orchester and Maestro Myron Michaeilidis. Next season she will join the ensemble at Staatstheater Kassel. Upcoming roles in Kassel include Marie in Wozzeck and Agathe in Der Freischütz.