

Karola Sophia Schmid  
Soprano



The Hamburg-born soprano **Karola Sophia Schmid** is equally at home on the opera stage and in concert performance. In addition to being an ensemble member at the State Theatres of Kassel and Darmstadt, she has appeared as a guest artist at opera houses such as Oper Köln, the Nationaltheater Mannheim, the Theatres of Bremen, Bonn and Nuremberg, collaborating with conductors including **Kent Nagano, Sir Jeffrey Tate, Václav Luks, Yoel Gamzou, Daniel Cohen, Attilio Cremonesi and Rubén Dubrovsky**. Concert appearances have taken her to major venues across Europe, among them the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Tonhalle Zürich, the Kölner Philharmonie, the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and the Tyrolean Festival Erl. Highlights of the current season include her role debut as Sophie in Richard Strauss' **Der Rosenkavalier** (new production, Theater Lübeck) and as Poppea in Monteverdi's **L'incoronazione di Poppea** in a new production at Staatstheater Darmstadt. She also sings Pamina, one of her signature roles, in Mozart's **Die Zauberflöte** at the newly founded Opernfestspiele am Saarpolygon in a production by **Stefano Poda**.

She makes her debuts at the Tyrolean Festival Erl, where she will sing the soprano part in Bach's St. John Passion, and with the Händelfestspielorchester Halle under **Attilio Cremonesi**. Further engagements include Carl Orff's **Carmina Burana** with the Philharmonischer Chor Bonn. Next season, among other engagements, she will sing Konstanze in **Die Entführung aus dem Serail** in a new production by David Bösch at Staatstheater Nürnberg. Recent highlights feature her portrayal of Ortlinde in a historically informed production of Wagner's **Die Walküre** conducted by Kent Nagano with Concerto Köln and the Dresdner Festspielorchester, as well as Pamina in Mozart's **Die Zauberflöte** at the Staatstheater Nürnberg (musical direction: Roland Böer, stage direction: Goyo Montero). She also made her role debut as Konstanze in **Die Entführung aus dem Serail** in Halberstadt. Her house debut at the Theater Bonn saw her as Oberto in Handel's **Alcina** under Dorothee Oberlinger; she subsequently sang the same role at the Staatstheater Darmstadt, where she also appeared as the title character in Pierangelo Valtinoni's **Der kleine Prinz**. Further engagements included Pamina at the Landestheater Detmold in a new production by Dirk Schmeding, and Micaëla in Bizet's **Carmen** at the Volkstheater Rostock in a staging by Vera Nemirova.

Her professional path began as a member of the Opera Studio at the Staatstheater Kassel, where she appeared as Musetta (**La Bohème**), Nannetta (**Falstaff**), Anna Reich (**The Merry Wives of Windsor**), and Gretchen (**Der Wildschütz**). She then joined the permanent ensemble of the Staatstheater Darmstadt, making debuts as Marzelline (**Fidelio**) and Pamina (**Die Zauberflöte**). She continues to return there as a guest artist, performing roles such as Zerlina (**Don Giovanni**), Oberto (**Alcina**) and Poppea (**L'incoronazione di Poppea**). A close artistic relationship also connects her with the Theater Kiel, where she has appeared since her student days in roles including Pamina, Urbain (**Les Huguenots**) and the title role in Hosokawa's **Matsukaze**.

In concert, Karola Sophia Schmid has performed in major venues such as the Tonhalle Zürich, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Kölner Philharmonie, and Concertgebouw Amsterdam. She made her debut at the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival with Schumann's Scenes from Goethe's **Faust**. In addition to major repertoire such as Bach's **Christmas Oratorio** and **Passions**, and various Händel oratorios, she has sung Brahms' **Ein deutsches Requiem** with the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra and Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* at the Tonhalle Zürich to great acclaim. At the Heidenheim Opera Festival, she performed Mendelssohn's *Elijah*; she has also sung **Mendelssohn's Psalms 42 and 95** under Kay Johannsen at the Stuttgart Stiftskirche for the 30th anniversary of the Stuttgart Kantorei, and Bach's **Christmas Oratorio** at the Berlin Cathedral.

Regularly invited to perform at the Laeiszhalle Hamburg, she will next appear there in April 2026 in Handel's **Saul**. Karola Sophia Schmid received her vocal training from Ulla Groenewold, with whom she continues to maintain a close artistic collaboration. She studied at the Universities of Music in Hamburg and Berlin (University of the Arts) and gained further significant artistic inspiration in masterclasses with Edith Mathis, Christiane Iven, Brigitte Fassbaender and Sonia Prina.