

# Jerica Steklasa

## Curriculum Vitae

Praised for her warm, beautiful voice and incredibly strong stage presence, the young Slovenian soprano **Jerica Steklasa** is often called the favourite of the audience.

Jerica Steklasa was born in 1992 in Ljubljana and has been surrounded by music from an early age. Her music education started at the age of six with violin and piano lessons. Ms Steklasa began to take singing lessons at the age of 13, which she continued to pursue at the Conservatory of Music and Ballet in Ljubljana. At her young teenage years, she was awarded with the highest prize of the Conservatory “*Škerjančeva Honorary Award*” for her artistic endeavours. In 2011, Steklasa joined the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts under the tuition of professor Claudia Visca, later also the Lied&Oratorio programme with professor Charles Spencer.

During her studies, the concerts and opera performances led her around the world stages in Austria (Wiener Musikverein, Konzerthaus, ORF Radio Kulturhaus, Theater an der Wien, Stadttheater Baden), Germany (Alte Oper Frankfurt, Stadthalle Bayreuth), the Netherlands (the Dutch National Opera & Ballet), Switzerland, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Japan and Australia.

Following her invitation to Australia, Steklasa made her opera debut in Sydney, Australia as Pamina in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in 2013, followed by her debuts in Vienna as Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* and Adele in *Die Fledermaus*.

In the 2016/2017 season, she had her debut at the Stadttheater Baden in the leading soprano role of Marie in the operetta *Der Carneval in Rom* by Johann Strauss. After the successful production in Baden, she was invited to sing at the world-renowned New Year's ball *HOFBURG Silvesterball* in Vienna, so she performed at this prestigious event on 31 December 2017.

Steklasa has participated in Masterclasses with *Cheryl Studer* (IVC 's-Hertogenbosch), *Roberta Alexander* (IVC, Dutch National Opera talent), *Bruce Sellers* (IVC, Dutch National Opera talent), *Ryan Banroft* (IVC, Dutch National Opera talent), *Silvana Bazzoni-Bartoli* (Menuhin Festival&Academy), *Siegfried Jerusalem*, *Anne Sofie von Otter* and *Bengt Forsberg*.

During her academic years, she has performed with great orchestras, for example *Thüringen Philharmonie*, *Münchner Rundfunkorchester*, *Philharmonic Orchestra Würzburg*, *Bühne Baden Orchestra*, *Divertimento Viennese*, *SNG Opera and Ballet Ljubljana*, *Symphony Orchestra Radio&TV Slovenia*; and sung under the baton of renowned conductors, such as *Peter Falk*, *Enrico Calesso*, *Olivier Tardy*, *Erwin Ortner*, *Vinzenz Praxmarer*, *Guido Mancusi*, *Oliver Ostermann*, *Franz Josef Breznik*, *Hermann Breuer*, *Nayden Todorov*, *Loris Voltolini*, *Simon Krečič*.

Steklasa has a wide-ranging interest in classical repertoire (from opera, oratorio, Lied programme to operetta and contemporary music), which also shows in the various competitions she has won.

As the youngest finalist, she won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize and the Audience Prize at the *International operetta competition "Nico Dostal"* in 2013, followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in 2015 at the *International opera competition "Vissi d'arte"* in Prague (Czech Republic), at the *International Lied-Duo competition – dedicated to Richard Strauss* in Sofia (Bulgaria) and at the *International singing competition "Cross over – Heinrich Strecker"* in the OPERA section in Baden bei Wien (Austria). The following year, in 2016, she won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the *"OSAKA Music competition"* in Japan, and also the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the *"Jurykonzert" Competition* organized by Freunde der Wiener Staatsoper in Vienna. In 2017, she won the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize and the special award of Neue Oper Wien at the *"10<sup>th</sup> Hilde Zadek singing competition"* and later also the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the *Music competition "CARSA – Casinos Austria Rising Star Award"* in Vienna (Austria).