

## Biography

Australian soprano Jessica Harper holds a Postgraduate Concert Soloist Diploma (Summa cum laude) from the **Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp**, and a Bachelor of Music (Hons I) from the **Australian National University School of Music**. She has been broadcast as a concert soloist and recitalist on several national Australian radio stations, and has toured much of Australia as a recital performer. Jessica is a founding board member of the **Apollo Opera Collective** and was the inaugural Artist in Residence at **St Andrew's College**, Sydney University, in 2018. Jessica's honours thesis *Synaesthesia and the Creative Process* was published in 2013 after peer review.

Jessica made her debut at the **Sächsische Staatsoper (Semperoper) Dresden** in September 2022 in the principal role of 'Schein' Ego fluens, in the world premiere of Angus Lee's opera *chasing waterfalls*. She jumped in as the soprano soloist for Mahler's *Fourth Symphony* at **Theater Magdeburg** in November (2022). Past operatic stage experience includes creating the title role in *Miss Brill* (World Premier), Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*), Casilda (*The Gondoliers*), Lisa (*La Sonnambula*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Mrs Norris (*Mansfield Park* – Australian Premier), La Zelatrice and Prima Sorella Cercatrice (*Suor Angelica*), Frantik, Chocholka and the Inkeeper's Wife (*The Cunning Little Vixen*) and Emmie (*Albert Herring*). Jessica was also the standby soprano for **Emma Matthews** in *MELBA A New Musical* (2017), and 'jumped in' for two performances.

A committed Lieder artist and concert singer, Jessica regularly collaborates with her duo partners **Alex Norton** and **Anna Alvizou**. Jessica's concert repertoire includes Strauss' *Vier Letzte Lieder*, Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*, Debussy's *Ariettes Oubliées*, Mahler's *Fourth Symphony*, Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and Saint-Saëns' *Oratorio de Noël*.

Jessica was the recipient of the **Melba Alumni Scholarship** (2021) and **Dame Nellie Melba Scholarship** (2018) with the **Melba Opera Trust**, and completed her second year as a Young Artist with **Pacific Opera** in 2015. Jessica attended the **Accademia del Bel Canto Rodolfo Celletti** in Martina Franca, Italy in 2018, and was the winner of the **Opera Foundation for young Australians** Dalwood-Wylie AIMS Graz Award and AIMS Sundell Study Award for 2019.

Internationally Jessica has represented Australia in several prestigious competitions, including winning second prize at the **International Rita Gorr Competition** in Ghent (2022) and reaching the semi finals in several top tier international competitions. These include the **Internationaler Mozart Wettbewerb** in Salzburg (2023), the **Éva Marton International Singing Competition** (Budapest, 2021), the **Glyndebourne Opera Cup** (Lewes, 2020) and the **58th Tenor Viñas International Singing Competition** (Barcelona, 2021).

Past successes in the Australian competition circuit include Jessica winning the Inaugural **Limestone Coast Opera Lucca Competition** (2018), **Sydney Eisteddfod Opera and Arts Support Group Scholarship** (2017), and the **Wollongong** (2017), **Shoalhaven** (2017) and **Cowra** (2015) Eisteddfodau Operatic Aria Championships. Jessica was Runner Up and winner of the Audience Choice Award for the **Sydney Eisteddfod Opera Scholarship** (2017), Runner Up for the **Herald Sun Aria** (2016), Runner Up for the **Sydney Song Prize** (2017), and has been a Finalist in the **Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship** (2018) and the **Opera Foundation for Young Australians** Lady Fairfax New York Scholarship (2018). Jessica was also selected as one of three singers to partake in a Masterclass with Dame Emma Kirkby as part of the **Sydney Opera House Awards** (2017).