

Sofia Jernberg, vocal artist

Sofia Jernberg, born in Ethiopia and brought up in Ethiopia, Vietnam and Sweden, is a singer and composer. Central to her work are unconventional techniques and sounds with focus on the human acoustic voice. Touching themes like identity, internationality, origin, belonging as well as a strong belief in communion and collaboration.

Music theatre and contemporary opera play an important role in Jernberg's artistic work. She participated in performances of Arnold Schönberg's *Pierrot lunaire* in 2010 and Salvatore Sciarrino's *Lohengrin* in 2014 by the Swedish ensemble Norrbotten NEO and embodied roles specifically written for her in new works such as *Folie à Deux* by Emily Hall and *UR_* by Anna Thorvaldsdóttir. PIERROT LUNAIRE'S production, directed by Marlene Monteiro Freitas and conducted by Ingo Metzmacher, featured her as soloist together with Klangforum Wien at the Wiener Festwochen 2021 as well as at the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen and the Festival d'Automne à Paris 2022.

Another running theme in her work is the collaboration with visual artists such as Camille Norment in her pieces *Rapture* and *Lull*. Sofia Jernberg can be seen as a singer in the film *Union of the North* with Matthew Barney, Erna Ómarsdóttir and Valdimar Jóhannsson. She has received several commissions as a composer and recently premiered her composition *Dreams of our future* for children's choir, soprano, voice and chamber ensemble at the Ultima Festival Oslo 2022 and a new work for the Ensemble Contrechamps at the Borealis Festival 2023 in Bergen.

In 2021, she sang the successful world premiere of Chaya Czernowin's *Atara* with the Radio-Sinfonieorchester Wien at the Musikverein Wien presented by the Festival Wien Modern. In 2023, she made her debuts with the Collegium Novum Zurich (Schönberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*) in Basel and Zurich, with the Ensemble Resonanz (*Hymns & Laments*) at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and at the Lucerne Festival Forward (Fausto Romitelli's *An Index of Metals*). She made her debuts at the Warsaw Autumn, the Armory Hall New York, the Concertgebouw Brugge (*Eroica I*) and with the pianist Alexander Hawkins at the Konzerthaus Dortmund. In 2025, she performed the world premiere of Chaya Czernowin's piece *No!* with the LA Phil New Music Group at the Walt Disney Concert Hall Los Angeles. National premieres followed with the WDR Sinfonieorchester at the WDR Funkhaus Cologne, the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France at the Philharmonie de Paris and with the RSO Wien at the Wiener Musikverein. In 2026, she premiered her composition *Psalms against the sea* together with the Mivos Quartet at the Wiener Konzerthaus and Alex Paxton's *Tunes to live with* together with the WDR Sinfonieorchester at the Kölner Philharmonie. She also performed the world premiere of Brigitta Muntendorf's *The Day Before* at the Wiener Festwochen and KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen.

Sofia Jernberg also has been nominated for the Nordic Council Music Prize 2025. This Award is one of the most prestigious prizes in Scandinavia. In 2026, she was awarded the Kunstpreis Berlin.

The season 2026/27 will present Sofia Jernberg's first music theater composition *Sunville* premiered at the Deutsche Oper Berlin (staging: Stephanie Thiersch). She will also present concerts at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin and with the Munich Chamber Orchestra singing her piece *The Art of Chironomy* and Julius Eastman's *Prelude to The Holy Presence of Jeanne d'Arc* in the series MKO Songbook in Munich. Furthermore, she will perform Muntendorfs *The Day Before* at Ars Electronica Festival in Linz and the Portuguese premiere of Paxton's *Tunes to live with* while making her debut at the Casa da Música in Porto.

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