

The Swedish-Dutch mezzo-soprano Helena van Heel has a wide-ranging repertoire from Baroque to contemporary music and is highly praised for her expressive interpretations of the great works of J.S. Bach, her chamber music performances and Lied recitals.

Helena sang with the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Residentie Orkest The Hague, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Phion Orchestra and the North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra. She worked with the conductors Frans Brüggen, Eric Ericson, Reinbert de Leeuw, Peter Eötvös, Tõnu Kaljuste, Christoph Poppen and Risto Joost. Helena collaborated with the New European Ensemble, Asko|Schönberg Ensemble, Rietveld Ensemble, Baroque Opera Amsterdam and Corelli Consort Tallinn. Festival appearances include the Donaueschinger Musiktage, the Gergiev Festival and the Holland Festival.

Helena also creates own productions in which existing compositions are combined with pieces specially written for her by the composers such as Jeff Hamburg, Max Knigge, Willem Boogman and Thomas Jennefelt. Since 2020 Helena van Heel has been artistic director of Stichting Noorderklank, which creates new music theater productions like *Een oog in zee* (premiere in 2022), based on the myth of Ariadne and Theseus.

Recently Helena recorded Berlioz, *Les nuits d'été* and Mahler, *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with pianist Naomi Tamura. This duo premiered the cyclus *Sieben Liebeslieder* by the Swedish composer Thomas Jennefelt to the Dutch audience in September 2020. In 2021 recordings and performances include Hamburg, *Songs along the Way & A Prayer: Colomba* and Mahler/Hamburg, *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* (label Etcetera); Jennefelt, *Sieben Liebeslieder*; Rossini, *Petite Messe Solenne*; Bach, *St Matthew Passion & St John Passion* and Mahler, *Kindertotenlieder*. In December 2018 Helena released the Christmas album *Ave maris stella*.

Helena van Heel started her career as a soprano but since 2009, first with the guidance of Monika Hauswalter and later on with Jón Thorsteinsson, she developed into the range of a mezzo-soprano.

helenavanheel.com

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