

Conductor and mezzo-soprano **Jutta Seppinen** was seven when she began taking violin lessons at the West Helsinki Music Institute, but her main instrument later changed via the piano to voice. At the Sibelius Academy she continued her vocational studies in voice, choral conducting and music theory, gained her diploma in singing with distinction, and completed a Master's degree in music in January 2008.

Since autumn 2011, Jutta Seppinen has been studying orchestral conducting in the classes of Leif Segerstam and Atso Almila at the Sibelius Academy. Other teachers have included Esa-Pekka Salonen, Osmo Vänskä, Jorma Panula, Mikko Franck, John Storgårds and Herbert Blomstedt. She spent spring 2013 studying orchestral conducting with Ulrich Windfur at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig. In masterclasses she has conducted many Finnish orchestras, among them the Joensuu City Orchestra, the Lapland Chamber Orchestra, the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra and the Tapiola Sinfonietta. In autumn 2016, she conducted her diploma concert with the Sibelius Academy Symphony Orchestra at the Helsinki Music Centre.

In autumn 2013, Jutta Seppinen conducted the “Kuule, minä sävellän” (Hear this, I'm a composer) concert project – a joint production by the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and the Finnish National Opera. The following summer she made her debut as an opera conductor at the Kokkola Summer Opera Festival, where she also acted as assistant to Sakari Oramo. That same year she made a second operatic debut, this time in the Sibelius Academy's production of *Così fan tutte*, and was selected for the Finnish National Opera's Kapuapu conductor programme.

In autumn 2014 it was time for her next debut, with the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra. In spring 2015 she conducted the Helsinki Baroque Orchestra for the first time and in the autumn the Wegelius Chamber Strings. In summer 2016 she was assistant conductor for the Savonlinna Opera Festival production of *Don Giovanni*, and in September conducted the Pori Sinfonietta. Her schedule for spring 2017 includes appearances with the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, the Lapland Chamber Orchestra, the Wegelius Chamber Strings, the Turku Philharmonic and the Finnish Baroque Orchestra. She is also to conduct the opera *Tuomarin vaimo* (The Judge's Wife) by Riikka Talvitie.

Before getting launched on her conducting career, Jutta Seppinen had already made a name for herself as a choir leader renowned for her innovative repertoire and her break with the traditional concert format. She has collaborated with many choirs, among them the world-famous Thomanerchor Leipzig, and been the choir leader for concerts with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the Avanti! Chamber Orchestra and others. Her concerts have taken her to many countries in Europe, the United States and Argentina. Since 2009, she has been Artistic Director of the Academic Female Voice Choir Lyran. The disc released by the choir in spring 2016 has received excellent reviews.

As a singer, mezzo-soprano Jutta Seppinen has focused particularly on the performance of Baroque and modern repertoire, gaining attention for her bold renderings. She has appeared at music festivals and taken part in concert and opera productions both in Finland and abroad. Her major operatic roles have included the soprano in Perttu Haapanen's opera *Solity:d*, and the critically-acclaimed monologue opera *Ihmissydän* (The Human Heart) by Heinz-Juhani Hofmann was

composed specifically for her. She has premiered many works composed especially for her and has worked with many composers and ensembles. In 2012 she sang the alto solos in the *St. Matthew Passion* with the Opus-X Baroque orchestra, and in spring 2013 she was the soloist with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra in Berio's *Sinfonia*.