



## Maria Weiss - mezzo-soprano

Maria Weiss is an Austrian mezzo-soprano specialising in Baroque repertoire and the rediscovery of forgotten works. Internationally acclaimed for the distinctive, burnished purity of her voice and her exceptional cantabile line (*Early Music Review*), she is recognised as an interpreter of stylistic refinement, musical intelligence and artistic depth.

Her repertoire encompasses Bach, Handel and Mozart, with a particular focus on rarely performed works, first modern performances and first recordings. At the heart of her artistic work lies a sustained commitment to bringing neglected repertoire back to the stage and into contemporary artistic dialogue, combining historically informed performance with a distinct curatorial vision.

She studied at the *Conservatorio Luigi Cherubini* in Florence and completed her degree at the *University of Music and Performing Arts Graz*. Her artistic development was shaped by her long-standing collaboration with Glenys Linos (*Royal Academy of Music, London*). Her Spanish and Latin American song repertoire was developed under the artistic guidance of Teresa Berganza.

A central artistic partnership is her collaboration with lutenist Luca Pianca, with whom she has developed recital programmes and recording projects dedicated to the rediscovery of lesser-known Baroque repertoire. A new solo album is currently in preparation.

Her ongoing collaboration with composer Wolfgang Mitterer has led to interdisciplinary projects at the intersection of early music, contemporary composition and visual dramaturgy. Within the framework of her *1607 ensemble für alte & neue musik* and her independent label *1607 Records*, she conceived and realised the albums *favola in musica. alte neue musik* and *early music bird. alte neue musik*, for which Mitterer contributed commissioned contemporary works and electronics as part of the ensemble. Their collaboration extends to the concert stage, including appearances at *Wiener Konzerthaus* within the Bach cycle with *Ensemble Claudiana*, and to film, where she appears both as singer and actress in productions such as *Untitled* (Michael Glawogger / Monika Willi) and *Blutgräfin* (directed by Ulrike Ottinger).

Maria Weiss has performed with ensembles including *Bach Consort Wien*, *L'Orfeo Barockorchester*, *Klangforum Wien* and the *Koehne Quartet*, appearing at *Wiener Konzerthaus*, *Wiener Festwochen*, *Handel Festival Halle*, *Bachfest Leipzig* and *Graz Opera*. She has also appeared as a lecturer at the *Festival Bach Sudamericano* in Asunción, where she led a masterclass in Baroque singing.

Her artistic presence is characterised by elegance, intellectual depth and a timeless sense of stagecraft. Her training in *Method Acting* at the *Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute* in New York informs her dramatic interpretation and brings distinctive theatrical intensity to her operatic work.

She is the founder and artistic director of the *1607 ensemble für alte & neue musik* and of the cultural initiative *favola in musica*. Through these platforms she develops concept-driven projects and innovative recording formats that unite early music, newly commissioned works and visual dramaturgy in a coherent artistic language.

Maria Weiss positions herself as an independent artistic voice within the international early music scene — combining scholarship, creative authorship and expressive stage presence.

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