

SANJA ANASTASIA STANIŠIĆ

Dramatic Mezzo-Soprano | Master of Arts

President and Founder, Nikola Tesla World Foundation

Sanja Anastasia Stanišić is internationally recognized as one of Serbia's leading dramatic mezzo-sopranos, acclaimed for the vocal power, dramatic intensity, and artistic depth she brings to the great mezzo-soprano repertoire. Her performances have earned her recognition on major opera and concert stages throughout Europe, Asia, and beyond.

She studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz and Vienna, where she completed her Master of Arts degree under the guidance of Professor Claudia Visca. As a recipient of a scholarship from the Federal Ministry for Arts and Culture of the Republic of Austria, she became the first Serbian vocal performance student admitted to the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, graduating with highest honors.

Following success at numerous international vocal competitions, Stanišić launched an international career that has taken her to prestigious opera houses and festivals in Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Georgia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Serbia, Japan, South Korea, and South Africa. From 2011 to 2013, she was a member of the ensemble of the Staatstheater Mainz in Germany.

Among the defining roles of her career is Bizet's Carmen, a signature interpretation she has performed to critical acclaim, including appearances with the Istanbul State Opera at the renowned Aspendos International Opera and Ballet Festival. Equally celebrated for her Verdi repertoire, she has become a distinguished interpreter of the composer's major mezzo-soprano roles.

Since 2013, Stanišić has been a regular guest artist at the world-famous Arena di Verona. She made her debut there as Fenena in Verdi's Nabucco alongside Plácido Domingo and has subsequently appeared in numerous productions of the festival's core repertoire. At Arena di Verona, she has shared the stage with many of today's foremost opera artists, including Plácido Domingo, Luca Salsi, Anna Pirozzi, Maria José Siri, Gregory Kunde, and Francesco Meli.

Her international engagements have also brought notable success in Malta, Sicily, Japan, and North Macedonia. In 2023, she was appointed Principal Soloist of the Opera of the National Theatre in Belgrade, where her artistic achievements have been recognized with special honors and public commendations.

Stanišić's extensive repertoire encompasses many of the most demanding dramatic mezzo-soprano roles, including Amneris (Aida), Carmen (Carmen), Azucena (Il Trovatore), Ulrica (Un Ballo in Maschera), Princess Eboli (Don Carlo), Santuzza (Cavalleria Rusticana), Fenena (Nabucco), Klytemnestra (Elektra), and others. With more than 200 performances as Amneris and over 180 appearances as Carmen, she is regarded as one of the most experienced and sought-after interpreters of these iconic roles of her generation.

Throughout her career, she has collaborated with distinguished conductors including Zubin Mehta, Daniel Oren, Plácido Domingo, Fabio Mastrangelo, Andrea Battistoni, and Srba Dinić, and has performed with leading orchestras and philharmonic ensembles across Europe and Asia.

In 2024, she received the prestigious international BraVo Award – Golden Statue for Outstanding Achievement in Classical Music, recognizing her as Serbia's Best Opera Artist. The award was presented at the historic Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.

Alongside her operatic engagements, Stanišić maintains an active concert career. A particular highlight of her concert repertoire is Verdi's Messa da Requiem, a work with which she has achieved notable artistic success. Her performances are regularly broadcast internationally on major television networks and cultural channels, including RAI, MEZZO TV, Arte, WDR, and RTS.

Combining vocal authority, dramatic conviction, and extensive international experience, Sanja Anastasia Stanišić continues to establish herself as one of the leading dramatic mezzo-sopranos of her generation on the international opera stage.