

Press Release of the Salzburg Festival

Elena Stikhina will take over the title role in Luigi Cherubini's opera *Médée*

(SF, April 12, 2019) **Sonya Yoncheva** is expecting the birth of her second child in early autumn. Due to the regulations of the Austrian maternity protection laws she will not be allowed to participate in all rehearsals and performances; therefore the artist is no longer able to sing the title role in Luigi Cherubini's opera *Médée* in the summer of 2019. The Salzburg Festival is delighted with Sonya Yoncheva about this personal news, and looks forward to welcoming Ms Yoncheva back to Salzburg in the years ahead.

The Russian soprano **Elena Stikhina** will take over the part of *Médée*. The premiere directed by Simon Stone and conducted by Thomas Hengelbrock will take place on 30 July 2019; further performances are scheduled for 4, 7, 10, 16 and 19 August 2019 at the Großes Festspielhaus.

Biographie Elena Stikhina



Following her spectacular debuts at the Paris Opéra and the Metropolitan Opera in New York, young lirico-spinto soprano Elena Stikhina is already making a distinguished name for herself in the international world of opera. Recent months have seen her triumph at some of the world's most prestigious opera houses and in concerts with the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Munich Philharmonic, as well as at the Philharmonie de Paris. The press has described her singing as miraculous and luminous, while her stage presence has been hailed as magnetic, her vocal technique as superlative.

Engagements in 2017/18 took Elena Stikhina to the Berlin State Opera as Mimì (*La bohème*) and Tosca, to the Deutsche Oper in Berlin as Leonora (*Il trovatore*), to both the Bavarian State Opera in Munich and the Festspielhaus in Baden-Baden as Senta (*Der fliegende Holländer*), to the Paris Opéra as Tatyana (*Eugene Onegin*) and to the Boston Lyric

Opera as Tosca.

In 2018/19 she sang Leonora (*La forza del destino*) at the Dresden Semperoper, the title role in *Suor Angelica* at the Metropolitan Opera and Brünnhilde (*Siegfried*) and Gutrune (*Götterdämmerung*) in concert performances in Paris. Further engagements this season before her Salzburg Festival debut in *Médée* include her debut with the Dutch National Opera as Cio-Cio-San (*Madama Butterfly*) and performances as Leonora (*La forza del destino*) at the Paris Opéra.

Plans for 2019/20 include her return to the Paris Opéra, where she will be heard as Yaroslavna in a new production of *Prince Igor* and also as Adriana Lecouvreur and Mimì, her Geneva debut as Aida and a return to the Boston Lyric Opera as Norma.

Elena Stikhina appears regularly as a guest soloist at St Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre. She first built up her repertoire on the new Primorsky Stage of the Mariinsky Theatre in Vladivostok.

Elena Stikhina completed her studies at the Moscow State Conservatory in 2012 and quickly came to international attention when she won first prize in the Competizione dell'Opera in Linz in 2014 and the audience prize and the Culturarte Prize at Plácido Domingo's Operalia Competition in 2016.