

MEZZO-SOPRANO BARBARA JERNEJČIČ FÜRST graduated in coral conducting under prof. Karl-Ernst Hoffmann and earned her master's degree in art and in opera performance from the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz. Additionally, she took master classes by M. Lipovšek, Ch. Ludwig, D. Fischer-Dieskau, M. Martinu, R. Pirnay, and, on baroque singing, by B. Schlick and Ch. Rousset. She was a member of the Flemish Operastudio of the Belgian city of Ghent and received a scholarship from the Steans Institute for Young Artists at the Ravinia Festival, Chicago.

She has appeared in the Flemish Opera in Ghent and Antwerp, in the Ljubljana and Maribor National Theatres, in the Vienna Chamber Opera, the Theater an der Wien as well as on the following occasions: the Ljubljana Musical Youth, the Ljubljana Festival, the Kogoj's Days Festival, the Summer in Ljubljana Old town festival, the Slovenian Music Days, in the Concert Atelier series of the Society of Slovene composers, the Styrian Autumn, the Carinthian Summer, the Bregenzer Festspiele, the Styriarte, the International Weeks of Early Music in Krieglach, the Frühlingsfestival in the Musikverein, the Echi Lontani, the Retz Festival, the Zagreb Music Biennale, the Wien Modern etc.

Barbara Jernejčič Fürst has worked with numerous orchestras and ensembles (the Slovene Philharmonic orchestra, the Slovene Radio and Television Symphonic Orchestra, the Tonkünstlerorchester, the Recreationorchester Graz, Slowind, La Petite Bande, the Armonico Tributo Austria, the Capella Musicae, Solamente naturali, Musica Aeterna, Mosaik, the Klangforum Wien etc.), and has, with these renowned musicians, recorded several CDs, focussing on new works of Slovenian and Austrian composers.

Her first solo CD was dedicated to the entire opus of Marij Kogoj to the piano accompaniment by Lithuanian pianist Gaiva Bandzinaite. The latter is also her accompanist in her last CD *V votlini raja (In the Hollow of Heaven)* featuring works of Lebič, Jež, Šivic and Lipovšek. Her CD *Dotiki (Touches)* is dedicated to contemporary (women and men) composers who are composing for solo voice, and to Monteverdi. Barbara Jernejčič Fürst is teaching singing at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana.