

The Swedish-Dutch mezzo-soprano Helena van Heel has a repertoire that stretches from baroque to contemporary music and she is highly praised for her natural purity, both vocally and expressively, which she displays in the great oratorios, as well as in chamber music concerts, Lied recitals and music theater.

Helena van Heel performed in productions like Mendelssohn, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (soprano soloist), the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century (semi-scenic); Purcell, *The Fairy Queen* (Night), Barokopera Amsterdam (direction David Prins); Ravel, *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* (La Bergère, L'Écureuil), Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra (semi-scenic); Goeyvaerts, *Aquarius* (one of sixteen soloists), Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Flanders Symphony Orchestra (direction Pierre Audi); Knigge, *Help Witches Bewitch!* (The Old Witch from the North, The Unhappy Woman, Henk the Street Sweeper), Netherlands Chamber Orchestra and the Residentie Orchestra of The Hague (direction Pepijn Cladder) en *Een oog in zee* (Ariadne), een project van stichting Noorderklank (regie Zephyr Brüggén).

Helena worked with the conductors Frans Brüggén, Eric Ericson, Reinbert de Leeuw, Peter Eötvös, Tõnu Kaljuste, Christoph Poppen and Risto Joost among others. She collaborated with the New European Ensemble, Asko | Schönberg Ensemble, Rietveld Ensemble and Corelli Consort Tallinn. Festival appearances include the Donaueschinger Musiktage, the Gergiev Festival and the Holland Festival.

Van Heel also creates her own productions in which existing compositions are combined with pieces specially written for her by composers such as Jeff Hamburg, Max Knigge, Willem Boogman and Thomas Jennefelt. Since 2020 Helena van Heel has been artistic director of 'Stichting Noorderklank', which creates new music theater productions, like *Een oog in zee*, based on the myth of Ariadne and Theseus.

Helena has made numerous recordings including her (Christmas-) CD *Ave maris stella* (2018) and the CD *Songs Along the Way* (Etcetera Records, 2021) and most recently the CD *Mein Liebeslied* (2022).

helenavanheel.com

