

Vis, Francine - Mezzo Soprano

Biography



Playing the violin and learning how to read music as a little child gave Francine an ear and musicality that feels at home in all classical music from baroque to quarter tone music. After her studies at the Conservatory of Amsterdam, where she received her master's degree with distinction for musical talent and artistry, she moved to Copenhagen to study at the Royal Danish Opera Academy. Here she got the opportunity to sing **Flora** in Verdi's *La Traviata* and **Mercedes** in Bizet's *Carmen*.

During her studies in Denmark, she sang the part of the **Squirrel** in Richard Ayres' opera *The Cricket Recovers*, directed by Pierre Audi, for the Holland Festival. After her education she sang **Pernille** (Nielsen's *Maskarade*) and **Cherubino** at the Royal Danish Opera. She had her Swedish debut with a leading role, **Gwendolen**, in *The Importance of being Earnest* (B. Tommy Andersson) in Vadstena.

In the **2025-26 season** she will sing **Lola** in Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and **Annina** in Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Royal Danish Opera. She will also appear as second soprano in Beethoven's *9th Symphony* and Mozart's *C minor Mass*. In summer 2025 she sang **Wellgunde** in Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* at Den Ny Opera in Esbjerg, and earlier that year she toured with Malmö Opera as **Baba** in Menotti's *The Medium*.

In 2024 she created the main role of **Nallepirat** in the children's opera *Nalle Havsöga* at Malmö Operaverkstan, and later sang the **3rd Lady** and **3rd Boy** in *Die Zauberflöte* at Den Ny Opera in Esbjerg. In 2023 she jumped in as **Faust** in Malmö Opera's touring production *Marguerite*, and also sang **Angelina** in *La Cenerentola* at Opera Hedeland. In 2022 she made her role and house debut as **Gertrude** in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* at Malmö Opera and toured Scandinavia with Nordic Opera in the contemporary opera *Drömdöden*.

In 2018 she performed and conducted a new music theatre production with music by Ligeti at the Opera Forward Festival in Amsterdam, and in the same year made her role and house debut as **Carmen** with the Danish National Opera. She also appeared in a lied recital with Magnus Svensson at the Stockholm Konserthus, sang **Tisbe** in *La Cenerentola* at the Royal Swedish Opera, **Cherubino** with Den Ny Opera in Esbjerg, and the **Dormouse** and the **Cricket** in Mathilde Wantenaar's *A Song for the Moon* with the Dutch National Opera.

In the field of **contemporary music**, Francine can be called a specialist. During many years she took part in avantgarde projects with Silbersee, based in Holland. She gracefully performs vocal acrobatics by a.o. Georges Aperghis, Luciano Berio, Giacinto Scelsi, John Cage and many living composers.

Francine won the **1st prize** at the *Copenhagen Lied-Duo Competition* 2015 with pianist Christian Westergaard and the Händel Award and the Diorapthe Award for the best performance of a new composition by Willem Jeths at the International Vocal Competition 2014 at 's-Hertogenbosch, Holland.

Francine can also be heard with Westergaard on a cd box with Heise songs, released in February 2021. As a **concert soloist** Francine performs baroque, contemporary and romantic repertoire with a.o. Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra, Concerto Copenhagen, Aalborg Symphony Orchestra, Sønderjyllands Symfoniorkester, Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, Copenhagen Phil, Camerata Øresund, Esbjerg Ensemble, Asko Schönberg Ensemble and Orchestre de Chambre de Genève.

www.francinevis.com

Repertoire

Opera

Bizet, G.	Carmen	<i>Carmen</i> <i>Mercedes</i>
Britten, B.	The rape of Lucretia A midsummer night's dream	<i>Lucretia</i> <i>Hermia</i>
Debussy, C.	Pelléas et Mélisande	<i>Mélisande*</i>
Gounod, Ch.	Faust Romeo et Juliette	<i>Siebel</i> <i>Stéphano*</i>
Händel, G.F.	Giulio Cesare Ariodante Hercules	<i>Sesto</i> <i>Ariodante</i> <i>Dejanira*</i>
Humperdinck, E.	Hänsel und Gretel	<i>Hänsel*</i>
Massenet, J.	Werther	<i>Charlotte*</i>
Monteverdi, C.	L'incoronazione di Poppea	<i>Amore</i> <i>Ottavia*</i>
Mozart, W.A.	Le nozze di Figaro Cosi fan tutte La clemenza di Tito	<i>Cherubino</i> <i>Dorabella</i> <i>Sesto*</i>
Nielsen, C.	Maskarade	<i>Pernille</i>
Poulenc, F.	La voix humaine	<i>The Woman*</i>
Puccini, G.	Gianni Schicchi	<i>La Ciesca*</i>
Purcell, H.	Dido and Aeneas	<i>Dido</i>
Ravel, M.	L'heure espagnole	<i>Concepcion</i>
Rossini, G.	Il barbiere di Seviglia Cenerentola	<i>Rosina*</i> <i>Angelina*</i> <i>Tisbe</i>
Strauss, R.	Der Rosenkavalier	<i>Octavian*</i>
Stravinsky, I.	Oedipus Rex	<i>Jocaste</i>
Thomas, A.	Mignon	<i>Mignon</i>
Verdi, G.	La traviata	<i>Anina</i> <i>Flora</i>
Walton, W.	The Bear	<i>Popova</i>

* studied

Symphonic/Oratorio

Bach, J.S.	Mattheus Passion Messe in h-moll Johannes Passion Weihnachtsoratorium
Donizetti, G.	Requiem (soprano)
Duruflé, M.	Requiem
Dvorak, A.	Stabat Mater*
Händel, G.F.	Messiah
Haydn, J.	Nelson Messe
Mozart, W.A.	Mass in C minor Requiem
Pergolesi, G.B.	Stabat Mater
Rossini, G.	Petite messe solennelle* Stabat Mater
Stravinsky, I.	Cantata

Reviews

The Medium, Malmö Opera, 2025

In the role of the self-acclaimed oracle Madame Flora is Francine Vis whose potent mezzo voice fits the powerful character well. In spite of her elegant and refined silhouette this is a brutal and ruthless woman who keeps her daughter Monica and her foster son Toby in an iron grip. Madame Flora is in Francine Vis' interpretation a contradictory and affecting character. Not just a monster but a human being torn by alcohol and bitterness.

- Boel Gerell, *Helsingborgs Dagblad*

Baba is played by mezzo soprano Francine Vis with a burning glow and sorrow in the voice.

- Mattias Gejrot, *Ystads Allehanda*

Nalle Havsöga, Malmö Operaverkstan, 2024

And while the ship still seems hopelessly stranded, the captain (mezzosoprano Francine Vis) sings a melancholy aria in tense counterpoint with the bassoon. Very beautiful!

- *Expressen*

[Jag är ett stort barn som längtar efter mer \(expressen.se\)](https://www.expressen.se/nyheter/konst/operaverkstan-nalle-havsoga-2024)

Cinderella, Opera Hedeland, 2023

Cinderella is the incarnation of the good, and here in Hedeland she is sung beautifully by the Dutch Francine Vis, who has both the attitude in the body language and the musicality with her. A fine mezzo-soprano, who was also educated in Copenhagen.

- *kulturkupeen.dk*

<https://www.kulturkupeen.dk/rossinis-askepot-i-opera-hedeland/>

Francine Vis must be mentioned especially in the title role for her poetic, pearling interpretation of this angel of innocence with a moral backbone. All the difficult vocal passages with the impossible embellishments ring beautifully.

- *politiken.dk*

[De skændes og slås og danser, og det er skønt at være med på sidelinjen - politiken.dk](https://www.politiken.dk/nyheder/kunst/operaverkstan-skændes-og-slås-og-danser-og-det-er-skønt-at-være-med-på-sidelinjen)

Francine Vis looks beautiful as Angelina, and she is sparkingly beautiful and clever, whether she is the maid, at the ball at the castle or in the end as the prince's bride.

- *ungtteatervlod.dk*

<https://ungtteaterblod.dk/anmeldelse-askepot-opera-hedeland/>