

# Eriksen, Sidsel Aja - Mezzo Soprano

## Biography



Sidsel Aja Eriksen grew up in Als in Southern Jutland and studied in Aarhus with Ingrid Haking Raaby and Bodil Øland and in Amsterdam with Rosemary Joshua. She made her debut at the Jutland Conservatory of Music in 2018.

Among her **recent and future engagements** is Mozart's *Mass in C minor* with Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, Bach's *Weihnachtsoratorium* with Sønderjyllands Symphony Orchestra and Copenhagen Phil, roles of **Isabella** (*L'Italiana in Algeri* by Rossini) at NorrlandsOperan, **La Scaramouchee** (*Fête galante* by Schierbeck) at Den Jyske Opera, **Cherubino** (*le nozze di Figaro* by Mozart) at Opera Hedeland and **Carmen** (*Carmen* by Bizet) at Helsingør Kammeropera.

Sidsel Debuted in 2021 at the Royal Opera in the role of the **Flower boy** in Nielsen's *Maskarade* and the following year she sang a cover of *Bevidsheden* in Alenius' *Manualen* from the stage. She has sung several children's operas around Denmark with Operaen i Midten, toured with Operettekompagniet and on Funen Opera. She has sung **Tisbe** in Rossini's *Cenerentola* and the role of **Her** in *Græsset er Grønnere* by Oh Land and Adi Zukanovic.

In addition, she has sung several times at Aarhus Summer Opera, including in the premiere of John Frandsen's *Year of the Beast 1666* in the role of **Anne-Marie**. At the Copenhagen Opera Festival, Sidsel was part of the production of Puccini's *Suor Angelica* in the role of **Maestra delle novitie** and with Opera Hedeland and Operaen i Midten she sang the role of **Papagena** in their streaming recording of Mozart's *Magic Flute*. Also on Opera Hedeland she sang the role of **Cherubino** in Mozarts' *le nozze di Figaro*.

In 2025 she sang her first role at Den Jyske Opera, **La Scaramouche** in *Fête Galante* by Schierbeck and the same year she was back with the Royal Opera, joining their summer concert tour as a soloist.

On the international stage, Sidsel made her debut at Läckö Castle in Sweden in the lead role of **Tintomara** in Werle's opera of the same name and in Germany she appeared on stage at the Immling Festival as the title role in Rossini's **Cenerentola**. In 2024 she sang the role of **Isabella** in *L'italiana in Algeri* by Rossini at NorrlandsOperan.

Sidsel has worked **as a soloist** with several large orchestras, including Aalborg Symphony Orchestra and Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, Randers Chamber Orchestra, Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, Sønderjyllands Symphony Orchestra and DR's Symphony Orchestra. With these, she has, among others, sung **Moderen** in Gade's *Elverskud*, 2. Soprano in Mozarts' *Mass in C minor*, Alto soloist in Bach's *B-minor Messe* and *Christmas Oratorio* and Handel's *Messiah*, **Rosina** in a concert performance of excerpts from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and the role of the **2nd Tern** in the CD recording of Hornemann's *Aladdin*.

## Repertoire

### Opera

<b>Alenius, L.</b>	Manualen	Bevidstheden
<b>Chabrier, E.</b>	L'Étoile	<i>Adza</i>
<b>Fjeldmose, L.</b>	Billederne Synger	<i>Susanne</i>
	Er Gud Hjemme	<i>Lucy</i>
<b>Frandsen, J.</b>	<i>Dyrets År - 1666</i>	<i>Anne-Marie</i>
		<i>Ingebjørg</i>
<b>Hornemann, C.F.E.</b>	Aladin	<i>2.Terne</i>
<b>Händel, G.F.</b>	Alcina	<i>Ruggiero</i>
<b>Mozart, W.A.</b>	Le nozze di Figaro	<i>Cherubino</i> <i>Marcellina</i>
	Die Zauberflöte	<i>Papagena</i>
<b>Nielsen, C.</b>	Maskarade	<i>Blomsterdreng</i>
		<i>Pernille</i>
<b>Oh Land/ Zukanovic, A.</b>	Græsset er Grønnere	<i>Hende</i>
<b>Puccini, G.</b>	Sour Angelica	<i>Mistress of the Novices</i>
<b>Rossini, G.</b>	La cenerentola	<i>Tisbe (Danish)</i>
		<i>Angelina (German)</i>
<b>Viadot, P.</b>	Cendrillon	<i>Cendrillon (Danish)</i>
<b>Webber, A.L.</b>	Phantom of the Opera	<i>Madam Giry</i>
<b>Werle, L.J.</b>	Tintomara	<i>Tintomara</i>

### Symphonic/Oratorio

<b>Bach, J.S.</b>	B-minor mass
	Cantata BWV 79
	Weihnachtsoratorium
<b>Gade, N.W.</b>	Elverskud
<b>Händel, G.F.</b>	Judas Maccabaeus
	Messiah
<b>Mozart, W.A.</b>	Mass in C minor
	Coronation Mass
<b>Rossini, G.</b>	Petite messe solennelle

## Reviews

### **Fête Galante, Den Jyske Opera, 2025**

But Scaramouche was however put in his place by his wife, La Scaramouche, who with the beautifully singing mezzosoprano Sidsel Aja Eriksen radiated a sassy magnetism, even as she stood in the background eating grapes. She has two entertaining numbers, the first a ballad about an innocent shepherdess with her white lamb, performed in front of Renés lustful entourage. With coquettish coloraturas with the faint glow of Strauss' Ariadne auf Naxos. It is no wonder Ludvig 15<sup>th</sup> takes off with this lamb.

### **L'Italiana in Algeri, NorrlandsOperan, 2024**

Someone who does not shake in her boots is the lead role and mezzosoprano Sidsel Aja Eriksen. Her Isabella has a boasting self confidence which controls and directs the three attentive men (...) the register is wide, and the young dane will probably show up in several of Europe's larger stages in the future. Sidsel Aja Eriksens stage presence holds high class.

- *Västerbottens-Kuriren*

With great stage presence Sidsel Aja Eriksen serves beautiful and expressive coloratura.

- *Folkbladet*

### **Cenerentola, Immling festival, 2023**

Cinderella herself, stunningly sung and played by the mezzo-soprano Sidsel Eriksen, is by no means doomed to lack of will and inaction in Immling, as is so often the case in this classic fairy tale

- *OVM Heimatzeitungen*

### **Il Barbiere di Siviglia (Concert), Helsingborg Symfoniorkester, 2023**

Sidsel Eriksen delivered her coloraturas easily and effortlessly with a relaxed performance.

- *Helsingborgs Dagblad*

### **Tintomara, Läckö Slott, 2022**

Danish mezzo Sidsel Eriksen has an almost infantile attraction on the stage. If her singing parts in number are small, then her acting is that more captivating.

- *Svenska Dagbladet*

...but the very center of the performance is the Danish mezzo-soprano Sidsel Eriksen's interpretation of the role of Tintomara. In the restrained and registering acting there is a genuine musicality and an impressive sonorous accuracy. The closeness to the gentle and intimate expression of the folk song is combined with a striking speed in the change of tone.

- *Göteborgs-Posten*

Sidsel Eriksen was a captivating Tintomara. She acted sensitively and showed a deep understanding of her character. Her Tintomara is a person who with wide-eyed innocence reaches out to others in friendship but is dismayed when she elicits much more passionate feelings than she feels for anyone else, except her beloved mother. Eriksen's light mezzo voice sounded lovely and was perfect for this androgynous character. Her voice was particularly lyrical in the scene when Tintomara is alone in the forest feeling at one with nature. This gentle lyricism made for vivid and effective contrast with those moments when Tintomara is in anguish.

- *Seenandheard-international.com*

### **Christmas Oratorium, Aalborg symphony Orchestra, 2022**

On the female side the mezzo-soprano Sidsel Eriksen shone especially bright with her beautiful lecture and articulation and well-balanced phrasing. Her singing to Dehkovas obligato violin was another respite in the evenings program, a heavenly harmony between the two soloists and the continuo.

- *Nordjyske Stifttidense*