

Nicola Beller Carbone, who will soon be celebrating 30 years on the stage, is no ordinary operatic performer.

Born in Germany, NBC grew up in Spain. She is distinguished by a particularly artistic profile, giving equal weight to acting and music. Her experience as a dancer, instrumentalist and actress enrich the manner in which she works out how to portray her operatic figures, making her one of the outstanding and authentic performers on the modern operatic stage.

More

In her childhood, she danced classical ballet, in her teenage years she gave piano concerts, and after she left school she was a member of street theatre and cabaret ensembles. As well as singing in jazz and rock bands, she was a percussionist, a bass player.

She started her drama training in Zaragoza and later decided to study classical singing at the Escuela Superior de Canto in Madrid. Her first steady engagement took her in 1991 to Germany, where she joined the Operastudio of the Bavarian State Opera in Munich. Then she moved to the city's Gärtnerplatztheater, and after that was offered a permanent engagement at the Nationaltheater in Mannheim. Since 2001 she has worked as a freelance soprano.

Her particular affinity to the 20th-century repertoire emerged at an early stage. Her parts have included *Katerina Ismailova* in 'Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk' by Dimitri Shostakovich, and *Marie* in Alban Berg's 'Wozzeck'. Parts in Richard Strauss operas include, alongside *Salome*, *Chrysothemis*, *Ariadne* and the *Färberin*; in works by Wagner she has sung *Sieglinde* ('Die Walküre') and most recently *Kundry* ('Parsifal').

She is now regarded as a specialist for the complex repertoire of the Second Viennese School, as well as for the contemporary repertoire. She is outstanding as a performer of rarely performed operatic literature, e.g. as *Countess de la Roche* in 'Die Soldaten' ('The Soldiers') by Bernd Alois Zimmermann, *Ophelia* in 'Die Hamletmaschine' by Wolfgang Rihm, *Die Frau* in 'Erwartung' by Arnold Schoenberg and *Trommler* in 'Der Kaiser von Atlantis' by Viktor Ullmann. At the same time, though, she is also at home in the classical repertoire, with *Medea* by Luigi Cherubini and *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini as her major roles.

In 2016 Nicola Beller Carbone was nominated best singer in Spanish opera and zarzuela. Her award-winning *Pepita Jimenez* by Isaac Albéniz

in a production by Calixto Bieito has since been revived three times. NBC has also successfully interpreted well-known zarzuela roles such as *Soleá* in 'El Gato Montés' by Manuel Penella at Madrid's Teatro de la Zarzuela, where she has made a name as a confident performer of this Spanish genre.

In the concert field, too, NBC is active internationally. She has performed with Michael Gielen and the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra in the Berlin Konzerthaus, with Gianandrea Noseda at the Festival di Stresa and with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Orchestre Métropolitain in Montreal, to name but a few.

NBC's highly individual musical profile is rounded off by lieder recitals with unconventional programmes.

Among those who have exerted a lasting influence are **Astrid Varnay**, under whom she studied, **Richard Trimborn**, with whom she studied nearly all her German-speaking parts in sessions strongly characterized by their musical humanism, along with fellow singers **Hildegard Behrens** and **Hedwig Fassbender**, directors **Michael Schulz**, **Robert Carsen**, **Nicolas Brieger**, **Gabriele Rech**, **Arla Siegert**, **Paul Curran**, **Uwe Eric Laufenberg**, **Hugo de Ana**, **Emma Dante**, **Calixto Bieito**, **Marcelo Lombardero**, **Sebastian Baumgarten** and conductors **Stefan Blunier**, **Michael Gielen**, **Gian Andrea Noseda**, **Jeffrey Tate**, **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, and **Kirill Petrenko** with all of whom she has worked, and all of whom have left their mark on her.

In recent years Nicola Beller Carbone has devoted herself increasingly to teaching, holding regular master classes at acclaimed institutions such as the 'Theaterakademie August Everding' in Munich, the 'Escuela Superior de Canto' in Madrid, the 'Fundación internacional Alfredo Kraus' in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, the 'Opernstudio' in Munich, and the 'Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino / Opera di Firenze' in Florence.

From 2013 to 2018 she was the artistic director of the summer workshop 'InCanto Tignano – Sing&Act' near Florence.

Nicola Beller Carbone speaks five languages: Spanish, German, Italian, French, and English.