

## **Vita Daniela Bianca Gierok**

The mezzo soprano Daniela Bianca Gierok, described by Feuilleton as “a fascinating diva, with tones that move you to tears,” sings a repertoire that ranges from opera to oratorio, song recital to orchestral works. Her newest CD, „Gardens of Paradise“, which contains Songs by Brahms, Schumann and Strauss, will be published May 2015. Another CD of sacred songs and arias is scheduled for release in 2015.

Born into a musical family in Recklinghausen, Germany, Daniela Bianca Gierok heard her first Lieder recital at age four: a concert featuring her grandfather singing Robert Schumann’s *Dichterliebe*. She credits that experience with setting her on the path to her life-long love affair, and now expertise, with song repertoire and the concert stage. At the music conservatory in Cologne, from which she graduated, she mastered principal mezzo soprano roles of opera and oratorio. Her first professional contract took her to the award-decorated Theater Basel. There and as a Freelancer in the World of opera she has sung Orfeo (Gluck’s *Orfeo ed Euridice*), Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Sesto (*La clemenza di Tito*), Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Lola (*Cavalleria rusticana*), and Maddalena (*Rigoletto*). Since then, Ms. Gierok has added several other important opera roles to her active repertoire, including Charlotte (*Werther*), Dame Quickly (*Falstaff*), and Prinz Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*).

Daniela Bianca Gierok has an extensive repertoire of chamber music, orchestral, and oratorio works. She has performed music of four centuries, with special attention to the works of Bach, Brahms, and Mahler. Known especially for her mastery of works by J. S. Bach, she has sung the St. Matthew Passion, Christmas Oratorio, B-minor Mass, and several of Bach’s Cantatas. Her oratorio and concert repertoire also includes the Brahms Alto Rhapsody and *Vier ernste Gesänge*, Beethovens *Missa solennis*, Handels *Messiah*, Mendelssohns *Elijah*, Mozarts *Requiem* and *Missa brevis*, Rossinis *Petite messe solennelle*, Dvořák’s *Biblical Songs*,

Pergolesis Stabat mater, Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio, Mahlers Das Lied von der Erde and Rückert Lieder, and Verdis Requiem.

Daniela Bianca Gierok began her singing career with stupendous successes in jazz circles. Her stylistic refinement and flexibility continue to inform her singing across genres. Her CD „Swing from Paris“, recorded with the famed guitarist Lulo Reinhardt, has met with great success. Daniela Bianca Gierok won national prizes, for example the Bundesgesangswettbewerb or the Rhineland-Palatinate Jazzaward. She could have been seen in several TV-Shows (e.g. ARTE or SWR-TV) and experienced celebrated successes in the Tonhalle Zurich, the Philharmonic Orchestra-Hall in Cologne or at the Music-Festival of Schleswig-Holstein. Performances and concerts bring her to London, Paris, Vienna, Hamburg and Berlin.

Daniela Bianca Gierok and her husband, the novelist Ralf Dorweiler, are parents of a son.

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## Summary:

The mezzo soprano Daniela Bianca Gierok, described by Feuilleton as “a fascinating diva, with tones that move you to tears,” sings a repertoire that ranges from opera to oratorio, song recital to orchestral works.

Her grandfather embarked upon a promising singing career, but the his dream remained unfilled because of the outbreak of war and the birth of his 14 children. Daniela Bianca Gierok, the child of his youngest daughter, has succeeded in turning the family vocation into her profession and passion.

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