Lila Chrisp – Mezzo Soprano

Winner of the Lotte Lenya Competition 2026, British mezzo-soprano Lila Chrisp is a member of the soloist ensemble at Theater Freiburg. Roles for the 2026/27 season include Charlotte, Werther; Baker's Wife, *Into the Woods* (Sondheim); and Flora, *La Traviata*, as well The Government, *The Shell Trial* (Ellen Reid); and Mormon/Flatmate, *Last Days* (Oliver Leith).

Previous highlights at Theater Freiburg in seasons 2022-26 include Ruggiero, *Alcina*; Hänsel, *Hänsel und Gretel*; Polina, *Pique Dame*; Zweite Dame, *Die Zauberflöte*; Robin Luron, *Le Roi Carotte* (Offenbach); and Nymph 2, *Rusalka*. Equally at home in crossover and musical styles, she received outstanding reviews for her portrayals of Amy, *Company* (Sondheim) and Lucy, *The Threepenny Opera*.

Lila was nominated as 'Young Artist of the Year' in Opernwelt Magazine's Critics' Survey 2025, and was the winner of singing competition 'Ton und Erklärung' in 2023.

In the 2023/24 season, she made her house debut at the Nationaltheater Mannheim, performing the role of Ilse in the World Premiere of *Dark Fall*: an opera about dementia by Hans Thomalla. At Theater Freiburg, Lila has sung in many German Premieres of contemporary operas, including Ofglen, *The Handmaid's Tale* (Rouders); jumping in as the title role of Marnie in *Marnie* (Muhly); and Lumee in Ellen Reid's Pulitzer-Prize-Winning opera *p r i s m*.

A lover of art song, Lila has recently given song recitals with duo partner Hamish Brown as part of Beethovenfest Bonn and the Middle Temple Music Nights in London. She has given recitals with Gerold Huber the Münchner Künstlerhaus (June 2024), and with Manuel Lange at the Konzerthaus Berlin (April 2024) & at Theater Gütersloh (September 2024). Lila was the winner of the AESS Courtney Kenny competition for English Song and Poetry 2018 and has previously performed as part of the London Song Festival.

Lila graduated in 2022 from a Masters' degree at the Royal Northern College of Music, where she was taught by Louise Winter. Her studies were kindly supported by the Annie Ridyard Scholarship and the Kathleen Trust. She was a Garsington Opera Alvarez Young Artist for Summer 2022, singing in the chorus in productions of *Cosi fan Tutte* and *Rusalka*, as well as covering and performing the role of Nymph 3 in *Rusalka*. She played Coll in a new opera, *Drought*, by Anna Appleby, which premiered with the BBC Philharmonic and was broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

While studying at the RNCM, Lila performed the roles of Marcellina, *Le Nozze di Figaro*; Forester's Wife/Owl, *The Cunning Little Vixen*; and Mrs Nolan, *The Medium* (Menotti). She was also Barefoot Opera Young Artist 2021, performing the roles of Zanetto (Mascagni) and Orfeo (Gluck) at Grimborn Festival (Arcola Theatre).

Lila previously graduated with a First-Class Honours degree in Music from Merton College, University of Oxford, where she was a choral and academic scholar.