

BIOGRAPHY

PALESA MALIELOA (Soprano)

Palesa Malieloa, 27 years of age, hails from Kroonstad, South Africa. She obtained her BA in Music and Society (2014) at the North-West University's School of Music and Conservatory Potchefstroom Campus, where Dr. Conroy Cupido was her voice teacher.

This young soprano's journey includes taking part in prestigious Competitions and Master classes, gaining her the opportunity to work with acclaimed Artists such as Erica Eloff (Soprano), Barbara Hill Moore, Sally Burgess, Njabulo Madlala (Baritone), and receiving coaches from the likes of Kamal Khan. Her achievements include winning the School of Music's bursary competition in 2011 and 2013, the bursary for a merit performance by a BA student in 2013 and 2014 as well as the Annette Combrink bursary in 2013 and 2014. In 2013, she was one of two students chosen to travel to the United States of America with her teacher, to take part in a concert in Oberlin, Ohio, and to participate in masterclasses, as well as to observe singing lessons.

In 2015, Palesa became part of the Studio at Cape Town Opera where she had the opportunity to work with Ean Smit and David Butlin as her vocal coaches and she continues to work with Hanna Van Schalkwyk as her voice teacher. She was part of the chorus in *Così fan tutte* at the Aix en Provence Festival in 2016, where she got an opportunity to receive coaching from Susanna Eken, teacher at The Royal Danish Academy of Music, and Nicolas Kruger (Conductor). She received an opportunity to be part of the Mozart Academy summer programme in Aix en Provence, 2017, which forms part of the ENOA Foundation (European Network of Opera Academies).

In 2016, Palesa was awarded first prize in the ATKV-Muziqanto singing Competition, South Africa's most prestigious classical vocal competition. She was involved in a vocal masterclass directed by Dr. Klesie Kelly Moog through the Johannesburg International Mozart Festival 2017, where she was chosen to receive a full Scholarship to study in Germany, Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln, where she is currently busy with her Master of Performance studies, with Prof. Josef Protschka as her teacher. She received 1st prize at the 2nd Unisa National Voice Competition, which gained her automatic entry to the 6th Unisa International Voice Competition in 2018, where she obtained 3rd position. In April 2018, she competed in the Opera Crown Tbilisi International Voice Competition, in Georgia, where she was a Finalist.