

A black and white portrait of Simone Kermes, a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, looking upwards and to the right. She is wearing a dark leather jacket and large, circular hoop earrings. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light.

SIMONE KERMES

OPERA DIRECTOR

THE SINGING STAGE

*The thought
belongs to the singer.*

*The action
belongs to the character.*

*Music unites
the two.*

BERLIN

2026



MANIFESTO

Music theatre does not
begin on stage.

It begins within
the human being.

Directing begins with trust.

Music leads the way.

For more than three decades, I have lived on the world's opera stages. I have learned what singers need in order to entrust themselves fully to a role. This experience is the source of my work as a director.

I do not begin with a stage design.
Nor with a provocation.

I begin with the music.

I listen to the score.
I listen to the singers.
I look for the human being behind the character.

My task is not to invent their truth, but to give it space.

I am not interested in theatre
that merely seeks to impress.

I am interested in theatre that moves people.

ALCINA

DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

MUSIKHOCHSCHULE LÜBECK

JUNE 2026



MAGIC · POWER · TRANSFORMATION



RELATIONSHIP



MIRROR · IDENTITY



BODY · ENERGY



CLOSENESS · EMOTION



DIRECTING · TRUST

"The thought belongs to the singer. The action belongs to the character. Music holds the two together."



DIRECTING · STAGE · COSTUMES · PROPS · DRAMATURGY

SIMONE KERMES

RESONANCE

DIRECTORIAL DEBUT

ALCINA

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

MUSIKHOCHSCHULE LÜBECK | JUNE 2026



It was even better than at the opera.

AUDIENCE MEMBER AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

"Emotional magic."

LÜBECKISCHE BLÄTTER
Hans-Dieter Grünefeld · Issue 2026/12

*"The students' joy and enthusiasm
... clearly tangible."*

LÜBECKISCHE BLÄTTER
Hans-Dieter Grünefeld · Issue 2026/12

*"A Handel opera with minimal media
yet full emotional power. Chapeau!"*

LÜBECKISCHE BLÄTTER
Hans-Dieter Grünefeld · Issue 2026/12



The cast of vocal students from the MHL.
Original press photograph from the review · Lübeckische Blätter 2026/12

*"The thought belongs to the singer.
The action belongs to the character.
Music holds the two together.*

THE ARTISTIC PRINCIPLE AT THE HEART OF THIS PRODUCTION.

NDRKULTUR

**In splendid costumes:
Lübeck students sing "Alcina"**

Report on the Musikhochschule Lübeck production.

NDR Kultur · 7 June 2026

DIRECTOR

SIMONE KERMES

BAROQUE ORCHESTRA OF THE MHL
MUSICAL DIRECTOR ANDREAS KÜPPERS
VOCAL PREPARATION ROBERT ROCHE
TEXT OLIVER SPIECKER

Simone Kermes

SINGER | DIRECTOR | EDUCATOR

A WORLD. A MISSION. A VISION.