

# Soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg

## in conversation with Elizabeth Blumenstock

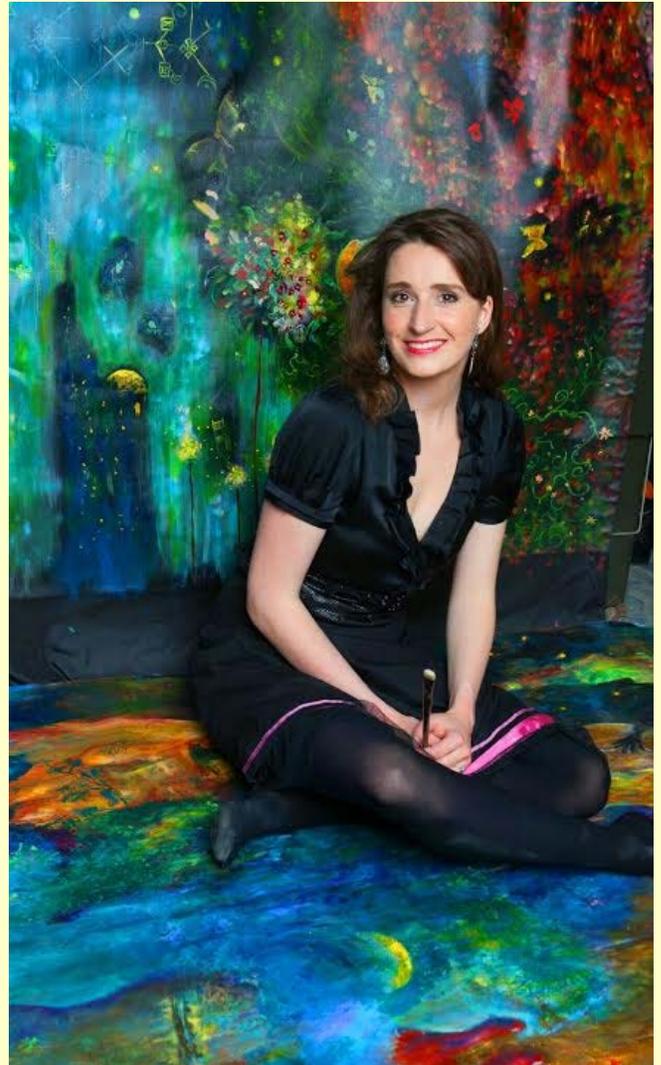
*I met soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg last October, in Boulder, Colorado, where we were performing together for the Boulder Bachtoberfest. After hearing her sing, I immediately invited her to join us in Corona del Mar to sing the role of Angelica in Handel's 'Orlando,' and I am thrilled that she agreed! I also discovered that she lives a double life, being both a singer and a painter.*

*So my first question for her was, "Which came first, your love of music and singing, or of visual arts and painting?" Her reply:*

**JS** I was born into a family of musicians, so it felt quite natural to make music. I played the violin and joined a children's choir, with my sister Charlotte, who is also a professional singer. We started singing together while doing the dishes. (We did not have a dishwasher, so we'd wash and sing songs together.) But I was always drawing and painting as a child, too, and we had many art books at home. I remember seeing a small image of a painting by Chagall and just kept looking at it, enchanted by the colors and the dreamy but powerful world it evoked. Painting was always a bit of a second life, but over the past years it's got a bit out of hand, in a good way..."

**EB** *Being interested in the relationship between music and visual arts myself, I then asked, "Do you find mutual connections between the two art forms, and if so, of what nature?" and I found her answer very interesting:*

**JS** I need both singing and painting to feel balanced. When I'm busy giving concerts and masterclasses, I have to be very extraverted, and really enjoy the interaction with other musicians, the physical feeling and activity of singing and the joy of being part of a group of people making music. When I'm painting a lot, I become more introverted, diving into my own world, and then want to be alone for long stretches of time. But always, when I've been doing one thing for a while, I get a bit restless and long for the other thing.



**EB** *I began to suspect that she had other (not-so-hidden) depths at this point, and my suspicions were validated when I asked my last question, “What other interests would you pursue if there were more hours in the day?” Her amazing response:*

**JS** Reading and learning languages. I do get to read quite a bit while traveling and I’m teaching myself Italian. I speak German, English, French and Dutch, and read Latin and ancient Greek, but as a singer I feel I should master Italian as well. I’m reading the Harry Potter books in Italian now — it’s easier when it’s a book I already know. I’d love to learn modern Greek too!

**EB** *Clearly, Josefien uses her hours well! She has given us links to her websites as a [singer](#), where you see where she has performed, and as a [painter](#), where you can see her expressive and evocative paintings. And yes, she sings with as much understanding, color, and feeling as she paints - so don't miss the concert!*

---



Soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg sings the role of Angelica in the 2018 Festival Finale: Handel's *Orlando*.

**Sunday, June 24, 2018 at 4 p.m.**

St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, CA

Further information [here](#).

For information about tickets and subscriptions to this year's Baroque Music Festival, Corona del Mar, visit the Festival [website](#).

[www.bmf-cdm.org](http://www.bmf-cdm.org)