



FERIDE BUYUKDENKTAS

Contralto

“Her voice is really beautiful; she is open and sincere, has a profound feeling for the music and conveys that so well. When I heard her sing for the first time, it brought tears to my eyes.” - J.Drake

Originating from Istanbul, the Turkish artist is based in Vienna and performs internationally in opera, concert and contemporary repertoire, complemented by a strong commitment to art song and chamber music.

Bio, Resume, Repertoire

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Biography

In recent years, Feride Buyukdenktas has found herself increasingly drawn toward contemporary music. Performing works by composers such as Beat Furrer, Salvatore Sciarrino, and Luciano Berio, Fazıl Say, has taken her to festivals and venues including the Salzburg Festival and the Lucerne Festival, and into inspiring collaborations with conductors such as Vimbayi Kaziboni and Matthias Pintscher, as well as with ensembles including Klangforum Wien.

Art song remains at the heart of her artistic life. It has led to long-standing and meaningful collaborations with pianists such as Julius Drake, Saskia Giorgini, and Charles Spencer, and to performances at venues including the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Wiener Konzerthaus. She works alongside leading interpreters of our time, among them Ian Bostridge and Julian Prégardien.

On the opera stage, she has embodied roles such as Cherubino (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Annio (*La Clemenza di Tito*), the Sorceress (*Dido and Aeneas*), Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), and Bradamante (*Alcina*). These engagements brought her into collaboration with directors including David Hermann, Eva-Maria Höckmayr, Marco Štorman, and Cesare Lievi, as well as with conductors such as Nicholas Carter and Kerilyn Wilson.

Buyukdenktas was born in Istanbul and studied voice at the Istanbul State Conservatory. From her early student years, she took part in international projects across the United States and Europe, collaborating with conductors such as Helmuth Rilling, Christoph Eschenbach, and Andrés Orozco-Estrada.

In 2012, she won the National Opera Singers Competition in Turkey. In 2015, she moved to Austria as the recipient of music scholarships from Borusan and the Austrian High School Foundation, completing her Master's degree at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz with Ulf Bästlein and Holger Falk.

Her artistic development has been shaped through masterclasses with Brigitte Fassbaender, Roberta Alexander, Charles Spencer, Christoph Prégardien, and Richard Stokes. She was a Britten-Pears Young Artist in 2017, a prizewinner of the Nordfriesischer Liedpreis des Landes Schleswig-Holstein, and a scholar of the State of Styria. Alongside her performing work, she regularly give masterclasses and teach voice and body.

Resume

Education

MA, University of Music and Performing Arts Graz

BA, Istanbul University State Conservatory

Languages

English, German, Turkish

Operatic Performances

- Begehren, Beat Furrer – Alto (2025, Paris Salle Cordot)
- Macbeth, Salvatore Sciarrino – Alto (2025, Salzburg Festival)
- Das Große Feuer, Beat Furrer – Chahuanca (2025, Opernhaus Zurich)
- Begehren, Beat Furrer – Alto (Salzburg Festival, Lucerne, Dortmund, Vienna Konzerthaus, 2024)
- Binbogalar Efsanesi, Michael Ellison – Narrator (2023)
- Gegen die Wand, Ludger Vollmer – Sibel (2023)
- Jakob Lenz, Wolfgang Rihm – Alto 2 (2022)
- Jesus Christ Superstar, Andrew Lloyd Webber – Apostle (2021, canceled due to lockdown)
- Alcina, Händel – Bradamante (2020)
- Elektra, Strauss – Second Maid (2020)
- Cendrillon, Massenet – Dorothee (2019)
- La decollazione di San Giovanni Battista, Bononcini – San Giovanni Battista (2019)
- La Clemenza di Tito, Mozart – Annio (2018)
- Rusalka, Dvořák – Second Nymph (2018)
- Roméo et Juliette, Gounod – Stéphanie (2017)
- Hänsel und Gretel, Humperdinck – Hänsel (2017)
- Le Nozze di Figaro, Mozart – Cherubino (2014)
- Dido and Aeneas, Purcell – Sorceress (2011)

Concert Performances

- ‘Diyalog’ with Julian Prégardien and Saskia Giorgini (Konzerthaus Wien, 2026)
- ‘Impermanence’ with Ian Bostridge and Saskia Giorgini (Istanbul Music Festival, 2026)
- ‘First Schubert’ with Julian Prégardien and Elitsa Desseva (Wien Museum, 2025)
- Das Lied von der Erde, G.Mahler (Het Concertgebouw, Mahler Festival 2025)
- Liederabend with Julius Drake (Het Concertgebouw, 2022)
- Johannes Passion, J.S. Bach (Konzerthaus Wien, 2022)
- Robert Stolz Gala Concert (Stephaniensaal Graz, 2021)
- Concert for Human Rights, Robert Bauer (Stephaniensaal Graz, 2017)
- Liebesliederwalzer & Neue Liebeslieder, Brahms with Charles Spencer (Schloss vor Husum, 2015)

Masterclasses

- 2022 Wigmore Hall - Lieder & Arias with Roberta Alexander
- 2019 Eppan - Epanner Liedsommer with Brigitte Fassbaender
- 2017 Husum - Liedkunst at Schloss vor Husum with Charles Spencer & Ulf Bästlein
- 2017 Aldeburgh - Britten-Pears Young Artist Academy
- 2008 Minnesota Duluth - Sieur Du Luth Summer Arts Festival with David Walsh

Awards

- 2023 - 22nd Nordfriesischer Liedpreis (Husum)
- 2019 - Music Scholarship of the State of Styria (Graz)
- 2017 - 16th Nordfriesischer Liedpreis (Husum)
- 2012 - 1st Prize, Young Opera Singers Competition (Izmir)

Repertoire

Opera:

- Michael Ellison

The Legend of the Thousand Bulls - *Narrator 2*

- Ludger Vollmer

Gegen die Wand - *Sibel*

- Beat Furrer

Begehren - *Second Alto*

Das grosse Feuer - *Die alte Chahuanca*

- Wolfgang Rihm

Jakob Lenz - *Second Alto*

- Andrew Lloyd Webber

Jesus Christ Superstar - *Apostle*

- Salvatore Sciarrino

Machbeth - *Second Alto*

- Richard Strauss

Elektra - *Second Maid*

- Engelbert Humperdinck

Hänsel und Gretel - *Hänsel*

- Jules Massenet

Cendrillon - *Dorothée*

- Antonín Dvořák

Rusalka - *Second Wood Sprite*

- Charles Gounod

Romeo et Juliette - *Stephano*

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Le Nozze di Figaro - *Cherubino*

La Clemenza di Tito - *Annio*

- Georg Friedrich Händel

Alcina - *Bradamante*

- Henry Purcell

Dido and Aeneas - *Sorceress*

- Antonio Maria Bononcini

La decollazione di San Giovanni Battista - *San Giovanni Battista*

Concert:

- Luciano Berio

Sinfonia

- Maurice Duruflé

Requiem

- Giuseppe Verdi

Requiem

- Gioachino Rossini

Petite messe solennelle

- Ludwig van Beethoven

Symphony No.9

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Requiem

- Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

Stabat Mater

- Johann Sebastian Bach

St. Matthew Passion

St. John Passion

Christmas Oratorio

- Georg Friedrich Händel

Messiah

Brockes-Passion

Dixit Dominus

- Georg Philipp Telemann

Reformations-Oratorium

- Antonio Vivaldi

Stabat Mater

Lied:

The list below focuses on complete song cycles rather than individual pieces. Beyond this selection, the artists holds an extensive repertoire of songs by Franz Schubert, Gustav Mahler and many of the great figures of the classical art song.

- Beat Furrer

Canti della tenebra

- Sofia Gubaidulina

Aus den Visionen der Hildegart von Bingen

- Benjamin Britten

A Charm of Lullabies

- Gerald Finzi

Let Us Garlands Bring

- Francis Poulenc

Fiançailles pour rire

- Frank Martin

Sechs Monologe aus Jedermann

- Alban Berg

Sieben frühe Lieder

- Manuel de Falla

Siete canciones populares Españolas

- Claude Debussy

Trois Chansons de Bilitis

- Hugo Wolf

Spanisches Liederbuch

- Gustav Mahler

Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen

Kindertotenlieder

Rückert-Lieder

Des Knaben Wunderhorn (Selected songs)

Das Lied von der Erde

- Johannes Brahms

Liebeslieder Walzer

Neue Liebeslieder Walzer

Vier ernste Gesänge

Zwei Gesänge (For voice, viola and piano)

- Peter Cornelius

Weihnachtslieder

- Richard Wagner

Wesendonck Lieder

- Robert Schumann

Dichterliebe

- Frédéric Chopin

Polish Songs Op. 74