



Elizabeth Watts

Soprano

Elizabeth Watts was a chorister at Norwich Cathedral and studied archaeology at Sheffield University before studying singing at the Royal College of Music in London. She was awarded an Hon DMus from Sheffield in 2013 and became a Fellow of the RCM in 2017. She is a prolific recording artist, and her recordings include critically acclaimed discs of Lieder by Schubert and Strauss; Mozart arias with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and most recently, Handel *Brockes Passion* with the Academy of Ancient Music.

This season Elizabeth will sing/direct the Britten Sinfonia on tour in the UK and Spain in a programme including a UK and a world premiere; sing Strauss and Mahler with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vasily Petrenko; Bruckner Mass No. 3 at the Sage Gateshead with the Royal Northern Sinfonia and Thomas Zehetmair, and Mozart's Mass in C minor with the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Edward Gardner.

Last season she appeared in concert, recital and on the opera stage. A highlight was her role debut as Aspasia in *Mitridate* at Garsington Opera Festival which prompted Alexandra Coghlan to write in *The i Elizabeth Watts is an immaculate Aspasia, stopping time in Act III's ravishing "Pallid ombre"*, while concert appearances included Vaughan Williams with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Martyn Brabbins; Britten *Les Illuminations* with the Britten Sinfonia in Santander; Mahler with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Ryan Wigglesworth; Beethoven with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande conducted by Jonathan Nott; Mahler with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Vasily Petrenko and Poulenc with the Residentie Orkest and Jun Märkl. She also sang Mozart concert arias with the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne conducted by Christian Zacharias and gave recitals at Wigmore Hall and Gran Canaria.

Other past concert highlights have included Mahler Symphony No. 4 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Robin Ticciati at the Glyndebourne Festival; Gluck *Iphigénie en Tauride* with Orquesta y Coro Nacionales de España with Nathalie Stutzmann; Britten *Spring Symphony* and Ligeti *Le Grand Macabre* with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle; Rossini *Petite messe solennelle* with the LPO and Gustavo Gimeno and Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony* with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and Sakari Oramo.

Elizabeth's many appearances at the BBC Proms include Mahler Symphony No. 2 with the BBC SO and Sakari Oramo; Ravel *L'enfant et les sortilèges* with the LSO and Simon Rattle; Schubert songs with the BBC Philharmonic and John Storgårds and Beethoven arias with the NDR Radio Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Andrew Manze.

Opera roles have included Countess *Le nozze di Figaro*, Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni* and Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte* for Welsh National Opera; Almirena in Handel *Rinaldo* for Glyndebourne; Marzelline *Fidelio* for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; and most recently Countess *Le nozze di Figaro* for English National Opera.

Elizabeth won the 2007 Rosenblatt Recital Song Prize at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition as well as the 2006 Kathleen Ferrier Award. She is a former BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist and was awarded a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award in February 2011.

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