



CLAIRE WATKINS – SOPRANO

BIOGRAPHY

Award-winning Welsh soprano, Claire Watkins, is a former Head Chorister of St. David's Cathedral Choir in Pembrokeshire, and graduated in 2007 with a DipRam from the Opera Course at the Royal Academy of Music studying with Beatrice Unsworth and Audrey Hyland. Claire also has a BMus (Hons) from Cardiff University, and a PGDip from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. In 2007, she participated in the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia di Bel Canto in Tuscany, studying with Leo Nucci and in 2009 become a Samling Scholar, where she studied and performed with her current teacher, Yvonne Kenny, as well as Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau.

Operatic roles performed include **Leïla** *The Pearl Fishers* for English National Opera, **Gilda** *Rigoletto* & **Micäela** *Carmen* for Scottish Opera, **Amelia** *Simon Boccanegra* for Opera Project Valladolid, **Constance** in *The Sorcerer* for Opera della Luna, **Donna Anna** *Don Giovanni* for the Amersham Music Festival, **Lauretta** *Gianni Schicchi*, **Venus** *Dardanus*, **Almirena** *Rinaldo*, **Arminda** *La finta giardiniera*, **Manon** *Manon Lescaut* and **Yvette** *La Rondine* all for RAO, **Miss Wordsworth** *Albert Herring* and the title role in *The Cunning Little Vixen* for RWCMD and creating the role of **Elizabeth Barry** in the world première of *Rochester's Second Bottle* with RWCMD and Music Theatre Wales. Claire also participated in the workshop of *Chair in Love* in Montreal, composed by John Metcalf, with the Chair in Love Collective in Montreal, Canada.

Recently, Claire has also covered several roles including the title role in Massenet's *Manon* and **Giannetta** in *L'elisir d'amore* both for Scottish Opera, **Bronwyn Jones** in *Carbon 12* for Welsh National Opera and for Buxton Festival Opera **Gretchen** *The Poacher* and **Alison** *The Wandering Scholar*.

Equally at home on the concert platform her oratorio experience includes the *B Minor Mass* with Trevor Pinnock, Mozart *Requiem* at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Beethoven *Mass in C* with Brian Kay, Monteclair's soprano cantata, *Pan et Syrinx* with Laurence Cummings and The English Concert at Handel House and performing with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

Recent engagements include covering the role of **Adina** in *The Elixir of Love* for English National Opera. Claire returns to Scottish Opera in autumn 2012 in a mainstage opera production tba.

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