

Linda Richardson

SOPRANO



Linda Richardson was born in Cheshire and studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, where she was a Peter Moores Foundation Scholar and winner of the Frederic Cox Award. She completed her studies at the National Opera Studio.

Highlights in recent seasons include **Cio-Cio San** *Madama Butterfly*, the title role *Anna Bolena*, **Amaltea** *Mosè in Egitto*, and **Elvira** *I puritani* all for Welsh National Opera and **Violetta** *La traviata* for Scottish Opera.

An English National Opera Company Principal between 1997 and 2005, her roles there included **Virtue** *The Coronation of Poppea*, **Fiordiligi** *Così fan tutte*, **Lauretta** *Gianni Schicchi*, **Micaela** *Carmen*, **Gretel** *Hansel and Gretel*, **Gilda** *Rigoletto*, **Zerlina** *Don Giovanni*, **Sophie** *Der Rosenkavalier*, **Mimi** *La bohème*, title roles *The Fairy Queen* and *Alcina*, **Violetta** *La traviata*, **Woglinde** *Das Rheingold*, **Helena** *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and **Donna Anna** *Don Giovanni*.

Roles elsewhere include **Karolka** *Jenůfa*, **Mimi**, **Nannetta** *Falstaff*, **Pamina** *Die Zauberflöte*, **Violetta** and **Gilda** (Opera North); **Lisetta** *La Vera Constanza* (Garsington Opera); **Norina** *Don Pasquale* (Clonter Opera), **Fairy Queen** in Barcelona; **First Niece** *Peter Grimes* (Dutch National Opera); **Amina** *La Sonnambula* and **Alice** *Falstaff* (Opera Holland Park); **Countess** *Le nozze di Figaro* throughout UK and France (Diva Opera), **Katya Kabanova** (ETO); **Alice** *Falstaff* and **Cio-Cio San** *Madama Butterfly* (Longborough Festival Opera) and **Mrs Coyle** *Owen Wingrave* (Nuremburg International Chamber Music Festival).

She performs extensively on the oratorio and concert platform, and is a frequent recitalist, having sung at the Newbury, Three Choirs and Arundel Festivals. She was a regular soloist with the English Haydn Festival where she sang in world and British premieres of Haydn's unknown works.

Other concert work includes Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* (Royal Northern Sinfonia); Handel *Messiah* (English Chamber Orchestra) and Britten *Les Illuminations* (Netherlands Radio Chamber Orchestra). Recent concerts include an Italian Gala (City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Carl Davis), Orff *Carmina Burana* at the Royal Festival Hall. Broadcasts include *Friday Night is Music Night* on BBC Radio 2 and **Annie** in Jonathan Dove's TV opera *When She Died* on Channel 4. Recordings include *Hearts and Flowers*, a collection of Victorian Parlour Songs, and Oscar *Un ballo in maschera* for Chandos.

In the current season Linda returns to Welsh National Opera as **Violetta** in *La traviata* and will understudy **Amelia** in *Un ballo in maschera*. Later in the season she will perform the title role in *Anna Bolena* for Longborough Festival Opera.

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