

Gemma Summerfield

Soprano



“The new cast was altogether classier than in 2012. It announced a heart-stealing Pamina in Gemma Summerfield, plumbing the depths of “Ach, ich fühl's” with her clean, personable soprano and artless phrasing.”

Andrew Clark, Opera

British soprano Gemma Summerfield was awarded First Prize at the 2019 Concorso Lirico Internazionale di Portofino and is the winner of the 2018 Susan Chilcott Award for Singers as well as both First Prize and the Song Prize at the 2015 Kathleen Ferrier Awards. She won the Jean Meikle Prize for a Duo at the 2017 Wigmore Hall International Song Competition and was a finalist in the inaugural Glyndebourne Opera Cup in 2018.

In the 2020-21 season she sings Pamina *Die Zauberflöte* for Glyndebourne and Governess *The Turn of the Screw* for Opéra National de Lorraine.

Recent highlights include her house debuts at Wexford Festival Opera (Paula Jordan in the European premiere of William Bolcom’s *Dinner at Eight*) and Scottish Opera (Pamina in Sir Thomas Allen’s production of *The Magic Flute*), and her debuts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, The Bach Choir, and the Hallé.

Other recent engagements include Beethoven’s *9th Symphony* (Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne); Bach’s *Magnificat*, *B Minor Mass* and *St John Passion* (all for the Al Bustan Festival, Lebanon); cover Michal *Saul* (Glyndebourne Festival Opera); Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte* (Bury Court Opera); Barmherzigkeit in Mozart’s *Die Schuldigkeit des ersten Gebots*, Mozart’s *Grabmusik* and Hyacinthus in Mozart’s *Apollo et Hyacinthus* (all for Classical Opera); cover title role *Rodelinda* (English National Opera); Gretel *Hänsel und Gretel* (Royal College of Music International Opera School); Ginevra *Ariodante* (RCM / London Handel Festival); Rosalinde *Die Fledermaus*, First Lady *Die Zauberflöte*

and *La Chauve-Souris/Une Pastourelle L’enfant et les sortilèges* (all RCM); *Berenice Il Vologeso* (Classical Opera at the Cadogan Hall); and Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni* (Verbier Festival Academy and Euphonia).

An active recitalist, Summerfield’s recent appearances include recitals at the Oxford Lieder Festival, Leeds Lieder, Cambridge Summer Music; Stratford-upon-Avon and London’s Wigmore Hall.

Solo oratorio performances include Fauré’s *Messe Basse* in Paris; Orff’s *Carmina Burana* (Glasgow City Halls); Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* (Holy Trinity, Sloane Square); Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater* (RCM); and Bach’s *Magnificat in D Major* and *Christmas Cantata* (Dunkeld Cathedral).

Summerfield has taken part in masterclasses with Barbara Frittoli, Leo Nucci, Richard Bonyngne, Sarah Connolly, Dame Felicity Palmer; Edith Wiens; Susan Bullock; Patricia MacMahon; Joan Rodgers; and renowned accompanists Malcolm Martineau, Roger Vignoles, Jonathan Papp and Anne le Bozec.

Summerfield studied at the Royal College of Music International Opera School, the Georg Solti Accademia and the Verbier Festival Academy. She is a Yeomen of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and a recipient of their Silver Medal.

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