

Mary Elizabeth Williams

Soprano



" Williams combines gleaming top and luxuriant richness with wonderful assurance..."

**Rian Evans, The Guardian,
10 February 2019**

" It's passionately sung by...Mary Elisabeth Williams, WNO's Verdi soprano of the moment and a touching, scrupulously musical Amelia..."

**Hugh Canning, The Times,
17 February 2019**

American soprano Mary Elizabeth Williams Season 2019-20 begins with her house and role debut at Vlaanderen Opera in the role of Elisabeth *Don Carlos* in the five-act French version of the opera. She returns to Welsh National Opera appearing with the WNO Orchestra in a series of concert performances themed *A Journey to Vienna*, celebrating some of Europe's finest music. In her native USA she travels to Lyric Opera of Chicago for another house and role debut as Gutruene *Götterdämmerung* in the new Ring production by David Pountney, and at her home company, Florentine Opera, she sings Lady Macbeth *Macbeth*. To close the season Miss Williams returns to title role *Aida* at Cincinnati Opera in a new production to celebrate their 100th Anniversary Season.

Last season the artist made her debut with Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in seven performances of Verdi's *Requiem*, alongside a Gala Concert in the Park before over 30,000 people, to mark the retirement of Zubin Mehta with Maestro on the podium. At Festival des Saint-Denis she sang Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* conducted by Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla. She joined New Jersey Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* and sang performances with Orchestre Lamoureux of Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, an Opera Gala Concert at Centre Lyrique Clermont-Auvergne, and with Thüringer Symphoniker works by Berlioz and Duparc.

At Opéra Dijon she revived the role of Abigaille *Nabucco* in a new production she previously inaugurated at Opera de Lille. She returned to Welsh National Opera in the role of Amelia *Un ballo in maschera* in a new production. Recent highlights include her debut as Desdemona *Otello* with Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; she portrayed Elisabetta *Maria Stuarda* at Deutsche Oper am Rhein and joined Welsh National Opera to appear as Leonora *La Forza del Destino* and in the title role *Tosca*. At Seattle Opera she sang revival performances as Serena *Porgy and Bess*, a role she also recently sang at La Scala, Milan.

Originally from Philadelphia, Miss Williams is a graduate of Iowa's Luther College, where she sang her first operatic role, the title role *Suor Angelica*. Beginning a long and successful career at Seattle Opera beginning in their young artist programme, Mary Elizabeth appeared on Seattle's mainstage in the role of Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni*; later, her 2011-12 performances of Serena won her the coveted Artist of the Year title, determined by Seattle's knowledgeable audience, and return invitations brought her back to Seattle Opera for roles such as Elisabetta, Leonora and Tosca.

Moving to Paris in 2002-2004, the artist became a member of the Centre de Formation Lyrique at the Opera National de Paris, where she won the Lyric Artist prize given every year by the Bastille's Cercle Carpeaux. Winning first prize at the Concours Clermont-Ferrand assured further French engagements, and she appeared as Lucy *The Telephone*, Susanna *Il Segreto di Susanna*, Anna *Le Villi*, and in the title role *Aida* at Opera en Plein Air in Paris, a role she later sang at Arizona Opera, Atlanta Opera and at Teatro Massimo Palermo.

Mary Elizabeth's extended repertoire includes the title roles *La Wally*, *Aida*, *Norma*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, as well as Leonora *Il Trovatore*, Santuzza *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Chimene *Le Cid*, Odabella *Attila*, Amelia *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Cilla *Margaret Garner* among other roles which she sings in significant European and American opera theaters. She has an active concert career and sings much of the standard vocal symphonic repertoire.

Future engagements include Abigaille at a major European house; she returns to Welsh National Opera for another principal role, as well as returning to the role of Serena in Europe.

EXCLUSIVE WORLDWIDE REPRESENTATION

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