

# Elizabeth Atherton

Soprano



“Elizabeth Atherton sings with consummate intelligence”  
**Rupert Christiansen, Daily Telegraph**

**Elizabeth Atherton** is one of Britain's most versatile and compelling lyric sopranos, performing a wide range of repertoire in both concert and opera. She read Music at Trinity College, Cambridge before studying at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and is the winner of numerous prestigious awards and prizes including the Maggie Teyte Prize, the Handel Singing Competition, the WNO Sir John Moores Award and WNO Chris Ball Bursary.

Following her debut as **Helena** *Midsummer Night's Dream* for English Touring Opera, she became an Associate Artist at Welsh National Opera, and has sung numerous roles for the company including **Contessa** *Le Nozze di Figaro*, **Donna Elvira** *Don Giovanni*, **Pamina** *The Magic Flute*, **Micaela** *Carmen*, **Minerva** *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria*, **Thibault** *Don Carlos* and **Young Maiden** *Moses und Aron*.

Elizabeth has since become a regular performer at Opera North, where roles have included **Governess** *Turn of the Screw*, **Fiordiligi** *Così fan tutte*, **Micaela**, **Donna Elvira** and **Helena**. Other opera includes **Micaela** (Royal Albert Hall and The O2), **Merab** *Saul*, title role *Savitri* and **Kathleen** *Riders to the Sea* (Buxton Festival), **Pamina** (Grange Park Opera), and she created the leading role of **Eurydice** in the world premiere of Harrison Birtwistle's *The Corridor* (Aldeburgh, Holland, Southbank and Bregenz Festivals) and **Medea** in the world premiere of his *The Cure* (Aldeburgh Festival and Royal Opera House).

Equally well known as a concert artist, Elizabeth is a frequent performer at the BBC Proms, where she has sung Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music* with BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Andrew Davis, Verdi *Four Sacred Pieces* with London Symphony under Antonio Pappano, Tippett *The Vision of St. Augustine* with BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Sir Richard Hickox and Stravinsky *Threni* with London Sinfonietta under David Atherton. Other performances include Berg *Altenberglieder* and *Der Wein* and Debussy *Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien* (also released on CD with BBC Music Magazine) with BBCNOW and Thierry Fischer, Boulez *Le Soleil des Eaux* conducted by the composer with Orchestre de Paris and BBC Symphony, Britten *Les Illuminations* with Hong Kong Philharmonic and David Atherton, *Messiah* with Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi under Sir Neville Martin, Zemlinsky *Lyric Symphony* and Stravinsky *Pulcinella* with BBCNOW and Jac van Steen, Beethoven *Symphony 9* with Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by both Sir Charles Mackerras and Mikhail Pletnev, Britten *Spring Symphony* with BBCNOW and David Atherton and Handel *Solomon* with Laurence Cummings at the London Handel Festival.

A committed recitalist, Elizabeth has appeared with Malcolm Martineau at the Aldeburgh Festival and with Iain Burnside at Wigmore Hall, Leeds Lieder+ Festival and for the BBC

Radio 3 Voices series. She has also given recitals at the Purcell Room, St. David's Hall Cardiff, Kings Place, National Portrait Gallery and Linbury Studio at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. She broadcasts frequently on BBC Radio 3, including

Mahler and Strauss *Lieder* with BBC Symphony and Jiri Belohlavek, and her discography includes Liszt's *Via Crucis* and *Missa Choralis* (Hyperion), *Classic Children's Songs* with Roderick Williams and Iain Burnside (Just Accord), *Saul* with The Sixteen and Harry Christophers (Coro) and Britten's *On this Island* with Malcolm Martineau (Onyx): a "superb account" – The Guardian; "lustrous and dramatic" – The Times.

Recent and future engagements include Shostakovich's Symphony No.14 with the BBC Scottish Symphony for BBC Radio 3, the role of **Wellgunde** in Wagner's *Ring Cycle* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, **Meni** in Thomas Adès' new opera *The Exterminating Angel* at the Royal Opera House, her role debut as **Leonore** *Fidelio* for Longborough Opera, a return to Opera North as **Donna Elvira**, a reprise of the roles of **Eurydice** and **Medea** for the Holland Festival, song recitals with Roger Vignoles, Barber's *Knoxville* with the Halle and the RLPO, *Saul* in Boston with Harry Christophers and the Handel and Haydn Society, song cycles by Dutilleux under Julian Anderson, Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony under Ryan Wigglesworth with the BBC NOW and also with the BBCSO, Dvořák's *Stabat Mater* with the Prague Symphony Orchestra, Schoenberg's *Second String Quartet* and Gorecki's *Symphony No. 3* with the London Sinfonietta, Stravinsky's *Threni* with the LPO under Vladimir Jurowski, Handel's *Messiah* with the Royal Northern Sinfonia, and concerts with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, the Ulster Orchestra under Rafael Payare, RSNO under Laurence Cummings, RLPO under James MacMillan, and St Paul Chamber Orchestra under Paul McCreesh. 

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