

# Katherine Watson

Soprano



“ Katherine Watson captures the full measure of *Theodora*'s dignity, lyricism and profound sublimity in every crucial scene.”

**Gramophone**

Praised for her “lyricism and sublimity” (Gramophone Magazine), British soprano **Katherine Watson** started her career as a young artist in Le Jardin de Voix. She has since appeared with many leading conductors including Paul Agnew, Harry Bicket, Harry Christophers, Stephen Cleobury, Jonathan Cohen, Emmanuelle Haïm, Nicholas Kraemer, Stephen Layton, Sir Roger Norrington and Christophe Rousset, and continues to work internationally with William Christie and Les Arts Florissants.

Katherine was the recipient of Glyndebourne's much coveted John Christie Award, appearing as **Fairy/Nymph** in *The Fairy Queen* under Laurence Cummings and then **Diana** in *Hippolyte et Aricie* at the festival. Notable operatic roles since then include **Italienne/Phantome** *Médée*, **Virtù/Damigella** *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* at the Teatro Real, Madrid, **Cassandra** *La Didone* in Caen, Luxembourg and Paris, **Phani** *Les Incas du Pérou*, *Dardanus* with Ensemble Pygmalion at Opera National de Bordeaux and at the Chapelle Royale, Château de Versailles, and **Iphis** *Jephtha* with Opéra National de Paris and at the Beaune Festival, **Mérope** *Persée* in Metz and Paris, and the title role in *Isbé* at the Palace of Arts, Budapest.

She enjoys a busy concert career, with highlights including *Jephtha* in Paris, Moscow and Vienna, **Diana** *Actéon* and **2nd Woman** *Dido and Aeneas* in New York under Christie, a programme of *Cleopatra*'s arias from *Giulio Cesare* in Lille, a programme of Rameau arias in Frankfurt and a Monteverdi Gala at the Festspielhaus, Baden Baden. Further notable concert engagements include Bach's *Jauchzet Gott* and Handel arias with The English Concert and trumpeter Tine Thing Helseth at the Cheltenham Festival, as well as a concert performance of Handel's *Apollo e Dafne* Carnegie Hall, New York and more recently with Arcangelo at Zanker Hall, New York.

Her oratorio work includes *Messiah* in Seville with the Hallé Orchestra, and with Polyphony at St John's, Smith Square, Le Concert Spirituel, BBC NOW and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Academy of Ancient Music for BBC Radio 3, Bach's *St John Passion*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and Mozart's *Requiem*, and Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate* at Westminster Abbey. Katherine has also performed Scarlatti's *Christmas Cantata* under Sir Roger Norrington, Handel's *Solomon* under Paul McCreesh and the *Nelson Mass* with the Britten Sinfonia at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam.

In addition to her work in baroque repertoire,

Katherine has performed Mahler's 4th Symphony, Lutoslawsky's *Chantefleurs et Chantefables* and Barber's *Knoxville – Summer of 1915* at St John's, Smith Square, *Symphonia Antarctica* with the City of London Sinfonia and Britten *Les Illuminations*. As a keen recitalist, Katherine's lieder/chanson repertoire includes songs by Mozart, Schubert, Mahler, Strauss, Poulenc and Messiaen.

Her discography includes her first solo recording, *L'Opéra du Roi Soleil*, with Alexis Kossenko and Les Ambassadeurs as well as Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* (Layton/OAE/Trinity College Choir), **Princesse** in *Opera des Operas* and Handel's *Messiah* (Niquet/Le Concert Spirituel), **Emilie** in *Les Indes Galantes* (Vashegyi), **Caterina** *Oratorio di Santa Caterina* (Headley), and a Hyperion recording in 2014 of Monteverdi madrigals with Jonathan Cohen and Arcangelo. DVD recordings include **Cassandra** *La Didone* (Opus Arte), **Virtù/Damigella** *Poppea* (EMI), **Un Songe/l'Amour/une Phrygienne** *Dardanus* (Harmonia Mundi) and the title role in *Theodora* (Warner Classics), released in January 2017.

Highlights in recent seasons include a return to the Théâtre des Champs Élysées as **Giunone** in Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, her début with Komische Oper Berlin as **Amélite** *Zoroastre*, *Miranda* with Opéra Comique, Paris, the title role in *Theodora* in Paris and New York, **Telaire** *Castor et Pollux* at Wigmore Hall, a concert of Handel arias as part of the Santander International Festival, and **Dafne** *Apollo e Dafne*, both with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, **Cleopatra** *Alexander Balus* at the London Handel Festival, **Nitocris** *Belshazzar* at the Beaune Festival, **Armélite** *Zoroastre*, and **Galatea** *Acis and Galatea*, Lully's *Armide* and appearances at the BBC Proms with Arcangelo and Les Arts Florissants, **Belinda** *Dido and Aeneas* with Opéra de Rouen, and recitals at Lille Opera with Simon Lepper and at the Oxford Lieder Festival with Sholto Kynoch.

Recent and future highlights include, Handel's *Saul* with the Festival de Beaune et Namur, Boismorier's *Les Voyages de l'Amour* in Budapest, a tour of Korea and Japan with Les Arts Florissants, Pergolesi and Vivaldi with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, a tour of *Messiah* with the Freiburger Barockorchester under Trevor Pinnock, and an appearance at the Prague Festival of Early Music and the Valletta International Baroque Festival.

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