Rayfield Allied

Helen Charlston

Mezzo-Soprano



" She can give life to a line like few others; her diction is marvellous, and marvellously varied; everything flows with incomparable beauty."
Gramophone Magazine

Helen Charlston's ability to make each performance completely her own, and her depth of connection with audiences has earned her international acclaim as "one of the most exciting voices in the new generation of British singers" (Alexandra Coghlan, Gramophone). She was recently a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist (2021-23), and was the 2023 Gramophone Award winner for Best Concept Album. She also collected the Vocal award at the BBC Music Magazine Awards for her second Delphian album: *Battle Cry*: the only recording that year to win at both ceremonies.

This season, Helen sings **Daniel** in Handel's *Belshazzar* with the RIAS Kammerchor, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and Maxim Emelyanychev, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and *St John Passion* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Helen also returns to the role of **Marianne** in Michel van der Aa's *Theory of Flames*, a role she debuted in the world premiere of the work at Dutch National Opera last season, and which she will perform this year at the Bregenzer Festspiele. In recital she collaborates with the Consone Quartet at the Three Choirs Festival and Cowbridge Festival, with Sholto Kynoch at Wigmore Hall and Oxford Song among other venues, and with Fretwork at Skipton Festival.

Recent opera appearances have included her debut at Dutch National Opera in the world premiere of Michel van der Aa's *Theory of Flames* in the role of **Marianne,** the title role in Handel's ***Solomon*** with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, **Sesto** in Calixto Bieito's production of *Giulio Cesare* at the Gran Teatre del Liceu conducted by William Christie, her debut at Versailles Royal Opera singing **Dido** in Purcell *Dido & Aeneas*, and at Grange Festival singing **Sorceress/Spirit** in the same opera. She also covered the title role in Charpentier **Médée** *at* Opéra national de Paris.

Further appearances on the concert platform include a programme of music inspired by Greek mythology with Britten Sinfonia and classicist, Natalie Haynes; Bach's *B minor Mass* with Arcangelo; Handel's *Messiah* with Royal Northern Sinfonia, Polyphony, and Royal National Scottish Orchestra; Bach's *St John Passion* with the Czech Philharmonic; Mahler's Third Symphony with Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra; and a residency at UKARIA as part of the Australian Chamber Music Festival, with repertoire including Schubert and Mahler songs, as well as collaborations with Quatuor Agate and musicians of Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

A 'Rising Star' of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment 2017-2019, Helen was selected for Le Jardin des Voix academy with Les Arts Florissants in 2021. She was a finalist of the 2021 Kathleen Ferrier Awards for which she was a recipient of the Ferrier Loveday Song Prize and won First Prize in the 2018 London Handel Competition.

Helen's most recent album *A Poet's Love* features "one of the most notable *Dichterliebe* recordings of recent years" (Gramophone Magazine). Released in 2026 by BIS Records with Sholto Kynoch, the album won the German Critics' Lieder and Vocal Recital Award for Q3 2026 and received five-star reviews in The Times and BBC Music Magazine. She has further recorded with Signum and Hyperion, and on the Academy of Ancient Music's own label in Dussek *Messe Solemnelle* which won a Gramophone Award in 2021, and Eccles' *Semele* in the role of **Juno**, also shortlisted for a Gramophone Award.

Helen's regular collaborators include Toby Carr, Sholto Kynoch, Consone Quartet, Joseph Middleton, Kunal Lahiry and Roman Rabinovich. She has recently performed in recital at Brucknerhaus Linz, the Oxford International Song Festival, with the Prague Philharmonia at Lobkowicz Palace, Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Wigmore Hall.

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