

# Francesca Chiejina

Soprano



“...even though it’s virtually the first thing we hear, it’s hard to forget the radiance of Francesca Chiejina’s Clara when she delivers her peachy Summertime.”

Neil Fisher, *The Times*

Nigerian-American soprano **Francesca Chiejina** is a graduate of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where her roles included **Countess Ceprano** *Rigoletto*, **Lady-in-Waiting** *Macbeth*, **Voice from Heaven** *Don Carlo*, and **Ines** *Il trovatore*. She also sang **Micaëla** *La tragédie de Carmen* at Wilton’s Music Hall, **Melantho/Love** *The Return of Ulysses* at the Roundhouse, and the soprano solos in Gorecki’s *Third Symphony* for the world premiere of a new work by renowned choreographer Crystal Pite for The Royal Ballet, and covered **Ifigenia** *Oreste*, **Antonia** *Les Contes d’Hoffmann*, **Giannetta** *L’elisir d’amore*, and **Arbate** *Midridate, re di Ponto*.

This season, Francesca sings the title role in **Semele** (Blackheath Halls) and performs Strauss Lieder with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Opera North. She will premiere *Odyssey*, a new work by Jonathan Dove and will headline the CBSO’s ‘Viennese New Year’ concert.

Recent operatic highlights include **High Priestess** *Aida* at Royal Opera House and **Lauretta** *Il Trittico* with Scottish Opera **Mimi** *La bohème* (Nevill Holt Opera, English Touring Opera); **Melissa** *Amadigi* (English Touring Opera); **Miss Jessel** *The Turn of the Screw* (OperaGlass Works); the title role in English Touring Opera’s film of Elena Langer and Glyn Maxwell’s **Ariadne**; **Freia** *RhineGold* (Birmingham Opera Company); **Anne Trulove** *The Rake’s Progress* (Blackheath Halls Opera); her debut with Capella Cracoviensis as **Aldimira** *Sigismondo*; her house and role debut as **Clara** *Porgy and Bess* at Grange Park Opera; her debut with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal (**Serena** *Porgy and Bess*); **Cio-Cio San** *Madama Butterfly* (scenes) at Guildhall School of Music and Drama; and **Pamina** *Die Zauberflöte*, **Berta** *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, **Countess** *Le nozze di Figaro*

(scenes) and **Alice Ford** *Falstaff* (scenes), all at the University of Michigan.

On the concert platform she has recently sung Berg’s *Seven Early Songs* with the Sinfonia di London and John Wilson at the BBC Proms, Mozart’s *Requiem* with Crouch End Festival Chorus, Richard Strauss’s *Four Last Songs* with Imperial College Symphony Orchestra at Cadogan Hall, Bach’s *St John Passion* with Huddersfield Choral Society and Manchester Camerata, Barber’s *Knoxville: Summer of 1915* with the BBC Philharmonic and with the Royal Northern Sinfonia at the Sage Gateshead; Handel’s *Messiah* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall; Vaughan Williams’s *Serenade to Music* at the Last Night of the BBC Proms; and Schubert’s *Winterreise* in recital at Blackheath Halls.

Chiejina has participated in masterclasses with Martin Katz, Kamal Khan, Gianna Rolandi, Joyce DiDonato, Brigitte Fassbänder, Edith Wiens and Felicity Lott. Competition successes include reaching the finals of the inaugural Glyndebourne Opera Cup in 2018, the semi-finals in the National Mozart Competition and winning the GSMD English Song Prize, the GSMD Aria Prize, as well as second prize in the Classical Singer Competition. She was also a finalist in the 2017 Kathleen Ferrier Awards. She has received Loveday, Marianne Falke, Maurice H and Evangeline L Dumesnil, George Shirley Voice and Willis-Patterson Scholarships.

Chiejina studied at the University of Michigan with Martha Sheil and James Paterson, and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Sue McCulloch.

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