

Ruby Hughes

Soprano



'Hughes can turn her voice from tender to raw, revealing different colours like a glass held to the light...'
Geoff Brown, *The Times*

Ruby Hughes is an artist whose instinct for communication lies at the heart of everything she does. Known for performances of striking emotional immediacy and for imaginative programming that draws unexpected connections across centuries, she brings together music, text and collaborators to create programmes of rare intimacy and impact. Her repertoire reaches from the Baroque to the present day, encompassing major orchestral works and song alongside a deep commitment to new music and the composers writing for her today.

Orchestral repertoire is an important strand of Ruby's career, with performances and recordings spanning Mahler, Berg, Britten, Bach, Handel, Mozart, Golijov and contemporary music. Particularly acclaimed in Mahler, her repertoire includes the Second and Fourth Symphonies, *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, *Kindertotenlieder* and the *Rückert-Lieder*. She has appeared with orchestras including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Minnesota Orchestra, Residente Orkest, Orchestra of the Age of

Enlightenment and Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, working with conductors including Osmo Vänskä, Jun Märkl, Gianandrea Noseda, Thomas Søndergård, John Storgårds, Juanjo Mena, Thierry Fischer, Ivor Bolton and Laurence Cummings.

Collaboration and artistic exploration lie at the heart of Ruby's work. She has developed close creative partnerships with Huw Watkins, Jonas Nordberg, Natalie Clein, Julius Drake and Joseph Middleton, alongside ensembles including United Strings of Europe and Manchester Collective. These relationships have led to a series of distinctive programmes and recordings, reflecting Ruby's wide-ranging musical curiosity. A passionate advocate for contemporary music, she is a committed champion of women composers; Helen Grime, Deborah Pritchard, Judith Weir and Errollyn Wallen are among those who have written or been commissioned to write for her.

Ruby has performed at many of the world's leading concert halls, including Wigmore Hall, Berlin Philharmonie, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Vienna Konzerthaus and Musikverein, Palais Garnier and Philharmonie de Paris, as well as the Frick Collection and Carnegie Hall in New York. Festival appearances include the BBC Proms, Edinburgh International Festival, Aldeburgh, Aix-en-Provence, Göttingen, Marlboro and Cheltenham. On the opera stage she has appeared at Theater an der Wien, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Opéra de Toulon and Potsdamer Winteroper, and in the UK with English National Opera, Garsington Opera and Scottish Opera.

A former BBC New Generation Artist, Ruby won both First and Audience Prizes at the London Handel Singing Competition and is a recipient of a Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award.

Ruby's extensive discography reflects the breadth and individuality of her artistic life. *Heroines of Love & Loss*, devoted primarily to female composers of the seventeenth century, received a Diapason d'Or, while *Clytemnestra*, with BBC National Orchestra of Wales, brings together orchestral songs by Mahler and Berg with Rhian Samuel's dramatic scena and was

nominated for a Gramophone Award. Recent releases include the critically acclaimed *Echo* with pianist and composer Huw Watkins; *End of My Days* with Manchester Collective, named Record of the Month by BBC Music Magazine; and *Amidst the Shades* with lutenist Jonas Nordberg which received five five-star reviews in major publications and was named Editor's Choice in the vocal category by Gramophone. Ruby continues to tour *Amidst the Shades* throughout the UK and internationally.

Future projects include *Inheriting the Earth* with United Strings of Europe in concert and for release for BIS/Apple in March 2027. She will be performing world premieres of chamber music by Lisa Robertson and Helen Grime's Bright Travellers with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Looking further ahead, Ruby will collaborate again with Errollyn Wallen on a major new commission, forming part of a programme that will also feature the first modern English translation of Shostakovich's *Blok Songs*, with plans to tour the project.

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