

## Orla Boylan Soprano

"Orla Boylan's Lidoine was quite extraordinary. Her body language told you precisely who this woman was before she even opened her mouth: down to earth, practical, homely. When she opened her mouth she emitted beautiful sounds in easy, unbroken lines".

– Rodney Milnes, *Opera*, December 2005



Since her breakthrough performances as Tchaikovsky's Tatyana under Gennadi Rozhdestvensky in Nikolaus Lehnhoff's production of *Eugene Onegin* in Baden Baden and Paris (available on DVD), the Slavonic repertoire and its heroines have become Orla Boylan's international calling card.

Her committed and radiant interpretations of Janacek's *Jenufa* and *Katya Kabanova* have been acclaimed at the Glyndebourne Festival under Jiri Kout and Markuz Stenz, at the Deutsche Oper, Berlin, at Oper Koln again under Stenz and at Opéra de Lyon under Lothar Koenigs and Staatsoper Hamburg. The more recent additions to her repertoire of Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and *Lisa (Pique Dame)* for Opera Holland Park have met with equal success.

In recent seasons Miss Boylan has also made a strong impression as an interpreter of Richard Strauss in a series of title roles for Garsington opera under Elgar Howarth notably in the British stage-premiere of *Die Liebe der Danae* (also recorded), *Arabella*, and *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Other roles have included Countess (*Le nozze di Figaro*) with Oper Köln, New York City Opera and ENO; Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) with New York City Opera; Blanche Dubois in the Irish premiere of Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Opera Ireland; Governess (*The Turn of the Screw*) with Angers Nantes Opera; Female Chorus (*The Rape of Lucretia*) with ENO and New York City Opera; and Madame Lidoine (*The Carmelites*) under Paul Daniel (available on Chandos). After making her debut as Sieglinde in Phyllida Lloyd's ENO staging of *The Valkyrie*, Miss Boylan returned to the role last season in David McVicar's new staging with Opéra national du Rhin under Marko Leontja.

Concert appearances have taken Miss Boylan all over the world and highlights include War Requiem at the Perth International Festival under Paul Kildea; scenes from Berg's *Wozzeck* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Andrew Davies; Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra under Paavo Järvi; Berg's *Seven Early Songs* and Strauss's *Four Last Songs* with Sinfonieorchester St. Gallen under Jiri Kout and also with the Hallé Orchestra under Mark Elder. Orla Boylan sang in a unique performance of Act III of ENO's *The Valkyrie* at the Glastonbury Festival.

This season's highlights include her debut at the Komische Oper, Berlin as Lisa (*Pique Dame*) and a return to Oper Köln for *Katya Kabanova*. She will also add Delius's *Idyll* and Nielsen's Symphony No. 3 to her repertoire with Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Mark Elder. And further ahead Miss Boylan will make her debut as Ellen Orford (*Peter Grimes*) for West Australian Opera; and as Senta (*The Flying Dutchman*) in a new production for ENO under Ed Gardiner.

In 2007 Orla Boylan was awarded a Helpmann award for her performance of Procne in the world premiere of Richard Mills' *Love of the Nightingale* at the Perth International Festival.