

## Orla Boylan Soprano



“Orla Boylan's Ariadne was sensitive, generous, sensual and wise. It was a triumph pure and simple.”

– Anna Picard, *The Independent*, July 2007

Since her breakthrough performances as Tatyana in Nikolaus Lehnhoff's production of *Eugene Onegin* in Baden Baden and Paris, the Slavonic repertoire and its heroines have become Orla Boylan's international calling card.

Her critically-acclaimed interpretations of Janacek's *Jenufa* and *Katya Kabanova* have taken her to Deutsche Oper, Berlin; Staatsoper Hamburg; Oper Köln; Opéra de Lyon under Lothar Koenigs; and Glyndebourne Festival Opera under Jiri Kout and Markuz Stenz. The more recent additions to her repertoire of Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* for Opera Holland Park and Lisa (*Pique*

*Dame*) for Komische Oper, Berlin, have met with equal success.

In addition, a series of title roles (*Arabella*, *Ariadne auf Naxos* and most notably the British stage-premiere of *Die Liebe der Danae*) for Garsington Opera under Elgar Howarth have established Orla Boylan as a respected interpreter of Richard Strauss's repertoire. This season she makes her debut as Aufseherin (*Elektra*) at the Salzburg Festival under Daniele Gatti, and future plans include her debut with Welsh National Opera as Ariadne (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) under Lothar Koenigs.

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 Opéra; 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*, Orla Boylan recently returned to the role in David McVicar's new staging with Opéra national du Rhin under Marko Leontja.

Concert appearances have taken her 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 Davis; Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra under Paavo Järvi; Delius's *Idyll* and Nielsen's Symphony No. 3 with Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Mark Elder; and Berg's *Sieben frühe Lieder* and Strauss's *Vier Letzte Lieder* with Sinfonieorchester St. Gallen under Jiri Kout and also with the Hallé orchestra under Sir Mark Elder.

This season's highlights include *Vier Letzte Lieder* both for RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, Dublin, and also for her debut with La Verdi, Milan under Xian Zhang; and she returns to the Perth International Festival to make her role debut as Ellen Orford (*Peter Grimes*) for West Australian Opera.

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