Elizabeth DeShong

Mezzo-Soprano

When Elizabeth DeShong sang Calbo in Rossini’s rarely performed *Maometto II* at the Canadian Opera Company, the National Post wrote: “Even more impressive was Elizabeth DeShong as Calbo … Vibrant tone, pyrotechnic technique, intense stage presence, spot-on-diction: this American mezzosoprano has it all.”

Last season Ms DeShong returned to Washington National Opera to sing Ruggiero in *Alcina* and appeared as Arsace in *Semiramide* at the Metropolitan Opera. In concert she performed Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* with Music of the Baroque and made her debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Schubert’s Mass No. 6 and also sang the world premiere of *Three Lisel Mueller Settings* by Maxwell Raimi, both conducted by Riccardo Muti. On the European platform, Ms DeShong visited several of the UK’s most prestigious festivals with a return to Glyndebourne as Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly*, made her debut at the BBC Proms in Bernstein's Symphony No. 1 ("Jeremiah") with the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia under Sir Antonio Pappano and subsequently her debut at the Edinburgh International Festival singing Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel)* in concert conducted by Sir Andrew Davis.

Highlights of the current season include a return to Glyndebourne to sing the title role in Robert Carsen’s staging of *Rinaldo*, a tour with The English Concert performing Juno and Ino in Handel’s *Semele* and Sesto in *La clemenza di Tito* with the Los Angeles Opera. In addition, she appears in recital for Vocal Arts, D.C. at the Kennedy Center and in concerts with Music of the Baroque and Houston Symphony Orchestra. There are also debuts with San Francisco Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic (as Ariel in Sibelius’ *The Tempest*) and with the Philadelphia Orchestra (in Rossini’s Stabat Mater) under the direction of Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

During the 2016/17 season Ms DeShong returned to the Lyric Opera of Chicago to sing Adalgisa and made her Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Bayerische Staatsoper debuts as Suzuki. In concert she performed Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Baltimore Symphony, Verdi’s Messa da Requiem with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 with the Oregon Symphony.

She has performed extensively throughout the world with such companies as San Francisco Opera, English National Opera, Wiener Staatsoper, Opéra National de Bordeaux and Festival d’Aix-en-Provence. The list of symphony orchestras with which Ms DeShong has performed includes the Cleveland Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, Cincinnati Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, and the Royal Flemish Orchestra.

Elizabeth DeShong is the recipient of the Washington National Opera’s “Artist of the Year” award in 2010 for her performance as the Composer in Richard Strauss’ *Ariadne auf Naxos*. On DVD, she can be seen as Hermia in the Metropolitan Opera’s pastiche opera *The Enchanted Island* (Virgin), and as Maffio Orsini in the San Francisco Opera’s production of *Lucrezia Borgia* (EuroArts Music and Naxos of America). Her recording of Handel’s Messiah with the Toronto Symphony under the direction of Sir Andrew Davis is released by Chandos.

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