Emma Bell

Soprano

A former winner of the prestigious Kathleen Ferrier Award, soprano Emma Bell has in recent seasons developed her repertoire, moving from the Mozart heroines, with which she established her career, to the key jugendlich-dramatisch roles of Wagner and Beethoven.  Recent highlights include her house debut at Bayerische Staatsoper as Eva (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) under Kirill Petrenko, performances as Freia (*Das Rheingold*) with the Hallé Orchestra under Sir Mark Elder, as Madame Lidoine (*Dialogues des Carmélites*) at Staatsoper Hamburg under Kent Nagano and as Leonore (*Fidelio*) at Oper Köln.

A regular presence on the stage of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Bell's most recent appearances there have included Eva, Madame Lidoine and her highly acclaimed Elisabeth in *Tannhäuser* of which *The Times* wrote "her timbre has always been unique but now Bell shows so much more: perfect intonation, tenderness, subtle variation, compelling acting". *The Stage* added "but it's Emma Bell who offers what one must acknowledge as a star-is-born moment. As Elisabeth, she sings with a depth and power that point her in the direction of a full-scale dramatic soprano."

A wide and varied early career has taken Bell to Teatro alla Scala as Anne Trulove (*The Rake’s Progress*), Elettra (*Idomeneo*) and Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*); to Teatro Real Madrid as the Governess (*Turn of the Screw*) and Elettra; to the Metropolitan Opera as Contessa Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Donna Elvira; and to Glyndebourne Festival Opera as Miss Jessel (*The Turn of the Screw*). In more recent seasons, Bell has appeared as Leonore at English National Opera (Edward Gardner) and, in concert version, at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and at Theater an der Wien; as Elsa (*Lohengrin*) for both Welsh National Opera (Lothar Koenigs) and Staatsoper Hamburg (Simone Young), as Strauss’ *Arabella* at Oper Köln (Stefan Soltesz), as Eva for Opernhaus Zürich (Sebastian Weigle), and as the Governess for Staatsoper Berlin (Ivor Bolton) and at Dallas Opera (Nicole Paiement). Last season she returned to Glyndebourne for her role debut as *Vanessa* staged by Keith Warner and conducted by Jakub Hrůša.

Emma Bell's 2018/19 season includes performances of Britten’s *War Requiem* staged by Daniel Kramer at English National Opera under the baton of Martyn Brabbins, Venus and Elisabeth (*Tannhäuser*) at Deutsche Oper Berlin under Sebastian Weigle and Matilde in semi-staged concert performances of Mascagni’s *Silvano* for Scottish Opera under Stuart Stratford.  On the concert platform she sings Leonore with the Orquesta Sinfonica de RTVE and Wagner’s *Wesendonck Lieder* with Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under Lawrence Renes.

An engaging concert performer, Emma Bell has enjoyed a close collaboration with Sir Antonio Pappano on works such as Strauss’ *Vier letzte Lieder* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Britten’s *War Requiem* with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, and both Rossini’s *Stabat Mater* and Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis* with the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. She has recently added soprano I in Mahler’s mighty Symphony No.8 to her repertoire in performance with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra under Lan Shui. In repertoire including the core works of Beethoven’s Symphony No.9 and *Wesendonck Lieder*, Bell has appeared with the Gothenburg Symphony and Kent Nagano, the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Vladimir Jurowski, and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra under Gianandrea Noseda to name but a few.