Rachel Kelly

Mezzo-soprano

Rachel Kelly is a graduate of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden’s Jette Parker Young Artist Programme where she attracted considerable attention for her portrayals of Zaida (*Il turco in Italia*) conducted by Evelino Pidò, Javotte (*Manon*) conducted by Emmanuel Villaume, Mercédès (*Carmen*) conducted by Alexander Joel, and Pisana (*I due Foscari*) conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano. Her performance as Mirinda in Kasper Holten’s *L’Ormindo* conducted by Christian Curnyn was singled out by *Opera Today* for its “rich sensuality of voice” and “glowing warmth”, and she earned unanimous praise for Proserpina (*Orfeo*) at London’s Roundhouse.

Recent opera highlights include Idamante (*Idomeneo*) for Opera di Firenze**, Annio (La clemenza di Tito) for** Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) with Northern Ireland Opera, and Dorabella (*Cosi fan tutte*) for Glyndebourne on Tour**.  She has also appeared as** Medarse (*Siroe*) for Nationale Reisopera, Nerone (*Agrippina*) with the Irish Chamber Orchestra under Jonathan Cohen, Sesto (*Giulio Cesare*) with Christian Curnyn and the Early Opera Company, and she created the role of Catherine (*The Devil Inside*) for Scottish Opera, subsequently on tour in the UK and Canada. Rachel Kelly made her debut at Maggio Musicale Fiorentino as Nancy (*Albert Herring*)**, her Glyndebourne Festival Opera debut as** Annio (*La clemenza di Tito*) and she joined the CBSO and **Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla** last season as Idamantes in concert performances of Mozart’s *Idomeneo*.

In concert Rachel has appeared in the title role of Jomelli’s little-known *Il vologeso* with Classical Opera conducted by Ian Page, as Virtue (*The Choice of Hercules)* at the Internationale Händel-Festspiele Göttingen under Laurence Cummings, she joined Orchestre de Chambre de Paris under Christopher Franklin as Teresa (*La sonnambula*) at Paris’ Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, and she’s sung the role of Marguerite (*La damnation de Faust*) as part of the Leeds International Concert Season. Additionally, she has appeared with the Ulster Orchestra under Jac van Steen, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra under Matthew Halls, and with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra under Laurence Equilbey.  After impressing Plácido Domingo during her participation in Operalia, Rachel Kelly was invited to make a special guest appearance alongside him in concerts at Dublin’s 3Arena.

Early opera experience for the Royal Academy of Music includes Fanny Price in the London premiere of Jonathan Dove’s *Mansfield Park*, Wu in the world premiere of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies’ *Kommilitonen!* and Beatrice in John Copley’s production of *Béatrice et Bénédict* conducted by the late Sir Colin Davis.  She has appeared as both Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Isabella (L’Italiana in Algeri) at the Lismore Opera Festival. A native of Ireland, Rachel Kelly studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, London’s Royal Academy of Music and the National Opera Studio.

During the current season Rachel Kelly performs the role of Isolier (*Le Comte Ory*) with Opera de Rennes and makes her debut at Teatro Real in the roles of L'Eternità and Giunone in Cavalli’s *La Calisto*, conducted by Ivor Bolton.  She returns to the Ulster Orchestra for a performance of Mozart’s *Requiem*, makes her debut with the Münchner Rundfunkorchester in performances of Rossini’s *Sigismondo* and gives a solo recital at Wexford Festival Opera.

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