Brenda Rae

Soprano

Accaimed for her “tireless, golden soprano” (*The Times*), and “dazzling, pinpoint coloratura” (*Opera News*), Brenda Rae is a regular guest at the world’s leading opera houses in a portfolio of demanding principal roles.

Following two key debuts last season – at Teatro Real Madrid as Adina (*L’elisir d’amore*), and the Metropolitan Opera as Poppea (*Agrippina*) under Harry Bicket which was broadcast live to cinemas around the world – Brenda Rae returns to both houses this season: in her first Donna Anna in Claus Guth’s production of *Don Giovanni*, conducted by Ivor Bolton in Madrid, and as Rosina (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) in New York. She otherwise makes welcome returns to Wiener Staatsoper as Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*) under Antonello Manacorda, and Oper Frankfurt as Elvira in Vincent Boussard’s staging of *I puritani*, and looks ahead to debuts at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and Salzburger Festspiele in future seasons.

As a former member of the ensemble of Oper Frankfurt, Brenda Rae amassed an impressive repertoire including Violetta (*La traviata*), Lucia di Lammermoor, Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Amina (*La sonnambula*), Giulietta (*Les Contes d’Hoffmann*), Zdenka (*Arabella*), Gilda (*Rigoletto*), and Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) which has since become one of her most celebrated roles, leading to house debuts at the Staatsoper in Berlin, Hamburg and Munich. Elsewhere, Rae debuted at Opernhaus Zürich as Konstanze under Riccardo Minasi, English National Opera as Berg’s Lulu in William Kentridge’s production, Opéra national de Paris as Anne Trulove (*The Rake’s Progress*), Seattle Opera as Semele, and the 2011 Glyndebourne Festival as Armida (*Rinaldo*), which was part of the BBC Proms and released on DVD by Opus Arte.

Brenda Rae made her US operatic stage debut at the 2013 Santa Fe Opera Festival as Violetta and has since returned as Norina (*Don Pasquale*), both Mme Vladimirescu and Mme Herz (*The Impresario*), Cunegonde (*Candide*) and Lucia. Brenda’s continued collaboration with Bicket has brought her house debut at Lyric Opera of Chicago as Ginevra (*Ariodante*), and performances as Handel’s Semele on tour with The English Concert to London, Paris and New York. Further appearances at home this season include Lucia for Opera San Antonio and Elvira with Washington Concert Opera under Antony Walker.

On the concert platform, Brenda Rae joined the orchestra of Teatro alla Scala on two occasions singing Mozart, most recently under Zubin Mehta, and in recital, is a regular guest of Wigmore Hall in London and the celebrated Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg, returning to the latter for their 2021 Edition. Brenda Rae appears on several recordings including Wagner’s *Die Feen* and *Ariadne auf Naxos* (both on Oehms Classics), Milhaud’s *The Oresteia of Aeschylus* (Naxos; nominated for a Grammy award), Lowell Liebermann’s *Little Heaven* (Albany Records) and Offenbach’s *Fantasio* released by Opera Rara.

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