Allison Cook

Mezzo-soprano

Allison Cook’s reputation as one of today’s foremost exponents of contemporary and 20th century repertoire has been firmly established through the recent creation of a range of formidable characters.  Allison’s interpretation of the Duchess in Thomas Adès’ Powder Her Face has found a special place in her repertoire after tour-de-force performances in New York, Québec, Warsaw and Brussels.  Other roles of note include Marie in Wozzeck, Judith in Bluebeard’s Castle, Schoenberg’s Erwartung, and Kaija Saariaho’s Émilie.

This past season included Allison’s return to The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden under Thomas Adès in the first ever staging of Gerald Barry’s Alice’s Adventures Underground as well as Judith in Bluebeard’s Castle at the Enescu Festival under Cristian Mandeal, Saariaho’s Émilie Suite with Gävle Symphony Orchestra and her return to Teatro alla Scala as the Marquise de Merteuil in Luca Francesconi’s Quartett. This role in particular has earned Cook unanimous acclaim, from her world premiere performances at La Scala to subsequent productions at Gran Teatre del Liceu, Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Teatr Wielki, Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires, as well as at Wiener Festwochen, La Cité de la Musique, and both the Holland and Strasbourg Festivals.

An artist of phenomenal versatility and vocal range, other recent highlights include Allison’s role debut as Salome in Adina Jacobs’ new production for English National Opera, garnering Allison praise for her committed performance and “gleaming tone” (Opera Magazine), the world-premiere of Casablancas’ Enigma De Lea for Gran Teatre del Liceu, Miss Jessel in Kasper Holten’s The Turn of the Screw for Teatro alla Scala conducted by Christoph Eschenbach, Judith in Mariusz Treliński’s pivotal production of Bluebeard’s Castle for Teatr Wielki, and Allison’s debut with the Berliner Philharmoniker in The Diary of One Who Disappeared.  At the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Cook has appeared in Wozzeck, Turnage’s Anna Nicole and in Krzysztof Warlikowski’s new production of Janáček’s From the House of the Dead.

In the current season, Allison joins Opéra National de Lyon as Judith in Bluebeard’s Castle and Opéra national de Lorraine as Mrs Grose in The Turn of the Screw. In the UK she joins the Dunedin Consort at the Barbican and Edinburgh and Buxton International Festival’s for the world premiere performances of Errollyn Wallen’s Dido’s Ghost. Further ahead Allison sings Brunelda in Haubenstock-Ramati’s Amerika, in a production by Sebastian Baumgarten and conducted by Gabriel Feltz at Opernhaus Zurich, marking her house debut.