Brenda Rae

Soprano

With a voice “as bright as silver” (*Online Merker*) Brenda Rae combines high-flying coloratura with emotional commitment to creating nuanced characters on the world’s leading stages in a portfolio of demanding principal roles.

A dynamic season awaits, featuring company debuts with The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Salzburger Festspiele as The Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*) under Hartmut Haenchen and Joana Mallwitz, respectively. Elsewhere Brenda makes welcome returns to Opernhaus Zürich as Adele (*Le comte Ory*), Teatro Real Madrid as the title role in Christopher Alden’s new production of *Partenope* under Ivor Bolton, and the Bayerische Staatsoper as Aminta (*Die schweigsame Frau*). In concert she debuts with the ~~Bayerische Rundfunk~~ Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks as Adele (*Le comte Ory*) conducted by Speranza Scappucci.

As a former member of the ensemble of Oper Frankfurt, Brenda Rae amassed an impressive repertoire including Elvira (*I puritani*), Violetta (*La traviata*), Lucia di Lammermoor, Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Amina (*La sonnambula*), 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 English National Opera as Berg’s Lulu in William Kentridge’s production, Opéra national de Paris as Anne Trulove (*The Rake’s Progress*), and 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. This season Brenda returns to the Metropolitan Opera as both Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) conducted by Marek Janowski and Ophelia (Brett Dean’s *Hamlet*) under Nicholas Carter, as well as Mozart’s C minor Mass with the LA Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta.

An experienced recitalist, Brenda is a regular guest of Wigmore Hall in London and the celebrated Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg, returning to the latter for their 2022 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. Upcoming releases include a solo album dedicated to Strauss and Schubert accompanied by Jonathan Ware.

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