Brenda Rae

Soprano

With her “mesmerizing stage presence and crystal-clear voice” (New York Classical Review, 2022) Brenda Rae continues to triumph on the world’s leading stages in an eclectic portfolio of demanding principal roles.

The upcoming season features Brenda Rae’s return to the Bayerische Staatsoper as the title role in Claus Guth’s new production of *Semele* conducted by Stefano Montanari, as well as her return to Opernhaus Zürich as Maïma in Max Hopp’s new production of Offenbach’s *Barkouf* under Jérémie Rhorer. In Paris, Brenda returns to the Opéra Bastille for two productions, as Lucia di Lammermoor under Aziz Shokhakimov and Ophelia in Ambroise Thomas’ *Hamlet* conducted by Thomas Hengelbrock. On the Wiener Staatsoper stage she returns as The Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*) under Betrand de Billy and as Norina (*Don Pasquale*) conducted by Francesco Lanzillotta.

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. More recent seasons have brought debuts for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Salzburg Festival, respectively, as The Queen of the Night, as well as her critically acclaimed return to Teatro Real Madrid as the title role in Christopher Alden’s new production of *Partenope* under Ivor Bolton

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 Harry Bicket has brought her a 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. Last season Brenda returned to the Metropolitan Opera as both Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) conducted by Marek Janowski and Ophelia (Brett Dean’s *Hamlet*) under Nicholas Carter, which received unanimous praise from the international press.

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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