Susan Bullock

Soprano

Susan Bullock’s unique position as one of the world’s most sought-after dramatic sopranos was recognised by the award of a CBE in June 2014.

Of her most distinctive roles, Wagner’s *Brünnhilde* has garnered outstanding praise leading Bullock to become the first ever soprano to sing four consecutive cycles of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at the Royal Opera House under Sir Antonio Pappano. Appearances as Richard Strauss’ *Elektra* have brought her equal international acclaim and collaborations with some of the world’s leading conductors including Fabio Luisi, Semyon Bychkov, Seiji Ozawa, Sir Mark Elder and Edo de Waart.

In addition to her operatic achievements, Susan Bullock’s concert work has been extensive and diverse. She has collaborated with renowned conductors such as Esa-Pekka Salonen and Zubin Mehta, for the *Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde*. Celebrated appearances have included the Last Night of the Proms in 2011 and a special appearance at the London 2012 Olympics closing ceremony.

In recent seasons, Susan has explored new repertoire, debuting her “chilling” Kabanicha (*The Guardian*) in *Katya Kabanova* at Grange Park Opera under Stephen Barlow, Klytaemnestra (*Elektra*) for the Canadian Opera Company under Johannes Debus, and with Oper Frankfurt in Claus Guth’s new production under Sebastian Weigle. Further debuts include in the role of Kostelnička (*Jenůfa*) for Den Norske Opera and Grange Park Opera; both Gertrude and The Witch (*Hänsel und Gretel*) for Opera North and Grange Park Opera, and as Mrs Lovett (*Sweeney Todd*) for Houston Grand Opera and Bergen National Opera; and acclaimed appearances with Scottish Opera include Mark Anthony-Turnage’s Greek at the Edinburgh International Festival and BAM and The Old Lady in their new production of Candide. A skilled exponent of contemporary repertoire, Susan has sung the Mother in Missy Mazzoli’s *Breaking the Waves* at the Opéra Comique and at the Edinburgh International Festival, and upcoming seasons will feature Mazzoli’s new work – *The Galloping Cure* – staged worldwide.

Other notable recent collaborations include Oper Frankfurt for the first revival of *Elektra* under their new music director Thomas Guggeis, singing the role of Klytämnestra, and reprising Kostelnička in *Jenůfa* at the English National Opera with Keri-Lynn Wilson.

This season, Susan Bullock will return to Scottish Opera as Lady Billows in Daisy Evans’ new production of *Albert Herring* under William Cole and joins La Monnaie / De Munt for the world premiere of Mikhale Karlsson’s *Fanny and Alexander* as Helena Ekdahl, directed by Ivo van Hove and conducted by Ariane Matiakh. Her season concludes at Longborough Festival Opera for the UK premiere of *Wahnfried*, singing Cosima Wagner under Justin Brown and directed by Polly Graham.

Bullock’s significant discography includes *Der Ring des Nibelungen* with Oper Frankfurt under Sebastian Weigle on Oehms Classics (also available on DVD), and the title role in *Salome* with Philharmonia Orchestra under Sir Charles Mackerras for Chandos. In August 2024, Bullock released her new album *Songs My Father Taught Me* on the Champs Hill Records with pianist Richard Sisson, which features works from Sondheim to Richard Maltby and Burt Bacharach.

Beyond her performing career, Susan Bullock is committed to nurturing young talent, actively contributing to the National Opera Studio’s Sounding Board and conducting workshops and masterclasses throughout the UK.