Jamie Barton

Mezzo-Soprano

Jamie Barton’s meteoric rise to international prominence began with her double victory — First and Song Prize — at the 2013 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition. Subsequent accolades, including the Richard Tucker Award (2015) and the Metropolitan Opera’s Beverly Sills Artist Award (2017), affirmed her place as one of the world’s leading mezzo-sopranos. A passionate advocate for inclusion and diversity in the arts, she made history at the Last Night of the Proms 2019, raising the rainbow flag in a globally broadcast performance conducted by Sakari Oramo.

This season brings two exciting debuts for Houston Grand Opera: La zia principessa (*Suor Angelica*) and The Witch (*Hänsel und Gretel*), as well as a return to Europe as Ježibaba (*Rusalka*), one of her signature roles, for both Opéra National de Paris and Bayerische Staatsoper. Other recent highlights include her acclaimed portrayal of Baba the Turk (*The Rake’s Progress*) at Opéra National de Paris under Susanna Mälkki, Azucena (*Il trovatore*) at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano, and Brangäne (Tristan und Isolde) at Festival d’Aix-en-Provence in Simon Stone’s production under Sir Simon Rattle, broadcast worldwide on Arte.

A favourite at the Metropolitan Opera, Barton’s roles there have included Eboli (*Don Carlos*), Mère Marie (*Les Dialogues des Carmélites*), the title role in Gluck’s Orfeo, Elisabetta (Maria Stuarda), Adalgisa (*Norma*), and most recently Azucena (*Il trovatore*) in David McVicar’s new staging under Daniele Callegari.

In concert, Barton has built a richly varied repertoire, collaborating with leading conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Dalia Stasevska, Sir Antonio Pappano, Fabio Luisi and Marin Alsop. Her recent performances span Brahms, Elgar, Mahler, and Wagner, including Wesendonck Lieder, Rückert Lieder, Gurrelieder, and Das Lied von der Erde, reflecting her continued exploration of emotionally and vocally demanding works.

A committed champion of underrepresented voices, Barton has curated recital programmes spotlighting female composers at Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, at the Tanglewood Festival and the Kennedy Center as part of Renée Fleming’s VOICES series. Her acclaimed Pentatone release, Unexpected Shadows, a collaboration with Jake Heggie, celebrates powerful women and received widespread critical praise.