

## JUDITH HOWARTH Soprano



One of the most sought-after sopranos in Europe, Judith Howarth has consolidated a strong public following and critical appraisal for her work. She first came to public attention when she joined the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as a Principal. During nine seasons there she sang many roles including Oscar **Un Ballo in Maschera**, Musetta **La Bohème**, Liu **Turandot**, Gilda **Rigoletto**, Morgana **Alcina**, Norina **Don Pasquale**, Cressida **Troilus and Cressida** and Marguerite **Les Huguenots**. Subsequent engagements world-wide include Musetta in Cincinnati, Ellen Orford **Peter Grimes** in Toulouse, Santiago de Chile and Oviedo, Christine **Intermezzo** and Aithra **Die ägyptische Helena** in Santa Fe, Nedda **I Pagliacci** and all four soprano roles in **Les Contes d'Hoffmann** for Florida Grand Opera, Olga **Fedora** for the Washington National Opera, Violetta **La Traviata** for the Minnesota Opera, English National Opera and Glyndebourne and Liu at the Staatsoper, Berlin, Dalila **Samson** (Handel) for the Netherlands Opera, Marie **La fille du régiment**

in Geneva and Madame Mao **Nixon in China** for ENO. Recent engagements have included title role in **Madama Butterfly** in Helsinki, title role **Maria Stuarda** in Minnesota, Philip Glass **1000 Airplanes on the Roof** with Rednote Ensemble, Elgar **Caractacus** at the Three Choirs Festival with Sir Andrew Davis, **Glagolitic Mass** and Dvorak **Te Deum** with CBSO at Symphony Hall, Birmingham and Verdi **Requiem** at the Royal Albert Hall.

On the concert platform Judith has toured with Plácido Domingo to Seattle, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Brussels and Amsterdam, going on to sing Strauss's **Four Last Songs** in Vienna conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. Her festival appearances include Aix-en-Provence, The Proms, Tanglewood, Edinburgh and Salzburg. She has worked with many distinguished conductors including Georges Prêtre, Bernard Haitink, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Georg Solti, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Claudio Abbado, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Daniel Barenboim, Sir Charles Mackerras, and Seiji Ozawa.

Judith has appeared on television all over the world and has a discography of more than 30 recordings including **Troilus and Cressida**, conducted by Richard Hickox, which won Gramophone Magazine's Opera of the Year. Her latest recordings are **Il Segreto di Susanna** with the Oviedo Filarmonia under Friedrich Haider and the title role in Mercadante's **Maria Stuarda, Regina di Scozia** for Opera Rara.

In 2004 she sang the title role **Madama Butterfly** in a new production, staged for her by Colin Graham, at the Minnesota Opera. More recently she has sung Gilda for ENO, Elvira **I Puritani** with Chelsea Opera Group, Brahms' **Ein deutsches Requiem** in Florence under Stefan Anton Reck, a repeat of her critically acclaimed performance of Madame Mao **Nixon in China** for the Greek National Opera, Catherine **La jolie fille de Perth** with Chelsea Opera Group, Britten's **War Requiem** and Mahler's **8th Symphony** at the Three Choirs Festival, Parasha in Stravinsky's **Mavra** in Athens and Mendelssohn's **Lobgesang** with the Bergen Philharmonic. Other appearances have included Vaughan Williams' **Sea Symphony** in Gloucester Cathedral, La Fee **Cendrillon** for Chelsea Opera Group and Baroness Freimann **Der Wildschütz** at the Buxton Festival. Judith also made a return to

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Finnish National Opera for Elisabetta **Don Carlo**, further performances of **Madama Butterfly** for WNO, Mathilde **Guillaume Tell** at the Rossini in Wildbad Belcanto Festival, title role in the new production of **Maria Stuarda** for Welsh National Opera, Desdemona **Otello** (Act 3) in a Verdi Concert at Bridgewater Hall with the Hallé Orchestra (Mark Elder), Ellen Orford **Peter Grimes** for ENO (Gardner) and *Shakespeare in Concert* with Vlaamse Opera (Dmitri Jurowski) including excerpts from Verdi's **Otello**, a series of bel canto concerts based on the works of Sir Walter Scott for Scottish Opera, Elgar **Spirit of England** in Chester Cathedral and 1st Soprano (Magna Peccatrix) in Mahler **8th Symphony** with Philharmonia at the Royal Festival Hall (Salonen).

Further engagements include Mrs Julian **Owen Wingrave** for Opéra National de Lorraine, Nancy, **Four Last Songs** in Aberdeen, masterclasses in China, **Glagolitic Mass** with Bergen Philharmonic (Gardner), a new commission, **Arctic Elegy** with the University of Aberdeen, Ellen Orford in the Icelandic premiere of **Peter Grimes** at the Reykjavik Arts Festival with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra, **Elijah** with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (Petrenko), Brahms **Requiem** in Aberdeen, Ellen Orford **Peter Grimes** for the Deutsche Oper, Berlin (Runnicles) and Katerina **The Greek Passion** for Graz Opera, 1st Soprano Mahler **8th Symphony** with the London Philharmonic Orchestra (Vladimir Jurowski) at the Royal Festival Hall and title role **Madama Butterfly** for Welsh National Opera.

Recent and forthcoming engagements include Rosalinde **Die Fledermaus** for Welsh National Opera, an Opera Gala with the orchestra of WNO at the Great Hall, Swansea, Mahler **8th Symphony** at Ely Cathedral, Elgar **King Olaf** with Sir Andrew Davis at the Three Choirs Festival, and concerts in China, Vancouver and elsewhere in Europe. Judith also returns to ENO to sing Venus in their new production of **Orpheus in the Underworld**, as well as Mahler **Symphony No. 2 (Resurrection)** at Salisbury Cathedral and Beethoven **Missa Solemnis** in Canterbury Cathedral.

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