

ANNA STÉPHANY Mezzo-Soprano



Anglo-French mezzo-soprano Anna Stéphany has been praised for her stagecraft and "a superb, glowing, impassioned" voice. Anna was born in the North East of England and studied at the Guildhall School of Music, where she was a recipient of the Gold Medal, and the National Opera Studio. She represented England at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World and is a Kathleen Ferrier Award winner.

Anna was a member of the ensemble at Opernhaus Zürich from 2012-15, where she made her debut as Cherubino in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*. Further roles in Zürich include Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Siebel in Gounod's *Faust*, Nicklausse in Offenbach's *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and Minerva in Monteverdi's *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria*. Her close relationship with the house has continued with Sesto in *La Clemenza di Tito*, a new production of Purcell's *King Arthur*, Romeo in *Capuleti e i Montecchi* and Charlotte *Werther*.

One of her most coveted roles is Octavian in Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, which she sang at the Bolshoi Theatre in 2011, the Royal Swedish Opera in 2015, and made her house debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in the role. Most recently, she has been heard at Opernhaus Zürich as Idamante in *Idomeneo*, the Bayerische Staatsoper as Dorabella in *Così fan Tutte* and in a return to the Glyndebourne Festival for her debut as Sesto in David McVicar's acclaimed production of *Giulio Cesare*.

Further appearances include Rosina in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris; Annio in Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* at Aix-en-Provence; Handel's *Theodora* with Rias Kammerchor; the title role in Charpentier's *Médée* at Chicago Opera Theatre and in 2013 she covered Joyce di Donato in *La Donna del Lago* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. She made her debut at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich stepping in as Annio in *La Clemenza di Tito* and returned the following summer as La Musica and Speranza in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*. A recent highlight was her debut at the Glyndebourne Festival as Sesto in *La Clemenza di Tito*, which also formed part of the BBC Proms Festival 2017.

On the concert platform Anna has appeared with some of the world's finest orchestras including performances of Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and Beethoven Symphony 9 with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, *Elijah* with Orquesta y Coro Nacionales de España, Berlioz's *Les nuits d'été* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Cesti's *Oronoea* with La Nuova Musica at Wigmore Hall, Elgar's *Sea Pictures* with the Bremer Philharmoniker, *St Matthew Passion* with the Handel & Haydn Society/Harry Christophers, *La damoiselle élue* with the Philharmonia Orchestra/Esca-Pekka Salonen, and a programme of Handel in New York, London and Paris with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment/William Christie in a tribute to Lorraine Hunt Lieberson. She made two appearances at the 2018 BBC Proms season, *La damoiselle élue* with the Hallé Orchestra and Sir Mark Elder, and *L'enfant et les Sortilèges* with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle.

Anna's debut solo recording *Black is the Colour* with the Labyrinth Ensemble was released in 2018 on Alpha Classics. Featuring works by Luciano Berio, Falla and Ravel, the disc won critical acclaim. Other recordings include the title role in Handel's *Serse* with Christian Curnyn and the Early Opera Company for Hyperion. Anna also appears alongside Juan Diego Florez as Charlotte in a DVD of Opernhaus Zürich's *Werther* and as Sesto in Glyndebourne's recent DVD release of *La Clemenza di Tito* from the 2017 festival.

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In her 2018-19 season Anna returns to Zürich as Hänsel, **Hänsel und Gretel**, and as Octavian **Der Rosenkavalier**. Concert performances include **L'enfance du Christ** with Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Vivaldi and Handel at Sage Gateshead with Royal Northern Sinfonia, **Le Martyre de St. Sebastien** with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Berlioz **Roméo et Juliette** with Orchestra XXI in Porto. Alongside pianist Sholto Kynoch, Anna gives recitals at this year's Lammermuir Festival and in Zürich.

This biography is valid for use until February 2019. We update our biographies regularly and ask that they are not altered without permission. For updated versions, please e-mail evie.parker@hazardchase.co.uk

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