

CLAIRE BOOTH Soprano



British soprano Claire Booth has become internationally renowned both for her commitment to an extraordinary breadth of repertoire, and for the vitality and musicianship that she brings to the operatic stage and concert platform. A regular contributor to the Aldeburgh Festival, Claire enjoyed a close collaboration with the late Oliver Knussen, and was the soprano soloist for many of his works, including the world premiere of '**O Hototogisu**'.

Operatic highlights include Rosina **Il Barbiere di Sivigli**, Elcia **Mose in Egitto** and Pakati in Jonathan Harvey's **Wagner Dream**, all for Welsh National Opera, **La voix humaine** in David Pountney's production for the Cardiff Festival of Voice and the Aldeburgh Festival, the title role in Janacek's **Cunning Little Vixen** for Garsington Opera, and George Benjamin and Martin Crimp's **Into the Little Hill** in a collaboration between the Royal Opera House and The Opera Group. Other roles have included Rosina **The Barber of Seville** and Dorinda **Orlando** (Scottish Opera), Nora in Vaughan Williams' **Riders to the Sea** (English National Opera), La Comtesse **Le Comte Ory** (Chelsea Opera Group), and Romilda in a concert performance of Handel's **Serse** with the Early Opera Company at St John's Smith

Square.

Her numerous concert appearances have resulted in close associations with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Proms, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Aldeburgh and Holland Festivals. Further highlights include appearances with the Berlin Deutsche Symphonie, Boston Symphony, London Philharmonic, the Tokyo Philharmonic, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, and the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. For more than a decade she has collaborated with video director Netia Jones to produce a series of critically acclaimed productions. These include her performances of Georg Friedrich Haas' **Atthis** and Kurtag's **Kafka Fragments** (ROH), Max in Knussen's **Where the Wild Things Are** and Rhoda in **Higglety, Pigglety, Pop**, which toured from the Aldeburgh Festival via the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Further appearances include Knussen's **O Hototogisu!** and Birtwistle's **Chorales from a Toy Shop** with the Birmingham Contemporary Music, Luigi Rossi's **Oratorio per la Settimana Santa** with Christian Curnyn, Ravel chamber works with the Nash Ensemble at London's Wigmore Hall, Britten's **On this Island** in the opening concert of New Paths Music Festival in Beverley, and Knussen's **Songs for Sue** with the Remix Ensemble and Orquestra Sinfónica in Porto, Portugal. Furthering her work with the BBC orchestras, in 2018 Claire sang **Les Illuminations** with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for a tour across Scotland.

Claire's most recent CD release features folk songs by Percy Grainger, accompanied by Christopher Glynn (Avie Records). She has also recorded diverse works by Ryan Wigglesworth and the Hallé Orchestra, including his **Augenlieder** of which she sang the world premiere. Other recordings include Lucia in Britten's **Rape of Lucretia** (EMI), Jonathan Harvey's **Wagner Dream**, John Eccles' **The Judgement of Paris** and works by Oliver Knussen, Jonathan Dove and Charlotte Bray.

In the 2018-19 season, Claire joined the BBC Symphony Orchestra to mark the centenary of the Armistice with a performance of Mark-Anthony Turnage's **The Silver Tassie**. On the operatic stage Claire sang the title role in Handel's **Berenice**, a co-production between the Royal Opera House and the London Handel Festival, and Nitocris **Belshazzar** in her company debut at the Grange Festival, both to critical acclaim. In concert she performed Knussen's **O Hototogisu!** with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and at the Aldeburgh Festival with the Knussen Chamber Orchestra, Benjamin's **A Mind of Winter** with the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo, and a programme of Birtwistle with the Nash Ensemble at London's Wigmore Hall.

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Performances in the 2019-20 season include a programme of Grieg at the Oxford Lieder Festival with pianist Christopher Glynn (ahead of their upcoming CD release of Grieg lieder), Augusta Read Thomas' **Of Being is a Bird** with the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, Knussen's **Songs for Sue** and **O Hototogisu** with Ensemble Intercontemporain, and **Pierrot Lunaire** with the Psappha Ensemble. Claire will also join Edward Higginbottom for performances of **Messiah** in Spain and the UK, and return to the Wigmore Hall with the Nash Ensemble to give the world premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage's **Owl Songs**.

This biography is valid for use until January 2020. We update our biographies regularly and ask that they are not altered without permission. For updated versions, please e-mail tom.wood@hazardchase.co.uk

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