



Anna Pierard Mezzo Soprano

Messiah - Auckland Choral Society
"Anna Pierard brought a remarkable individuality to her contributions. *He was Despised*, thanks to rich strings and a regal pace, had grandeur yet, for all that, human sorrows were not forgotten. Mid-aria, the daunting refiner's fire was spectacularly dispensed."
New Zealand Herald, William Dart, 15 December 2010

Madama Butterfly - Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra
"...with Anna Pierard's superbly sung Suzuki..."
New Zealand Herald William Dart August 2009

New Zealand born Anna Pierard has recently returned to New Zealand after being based in Spain. Anna completed the two-year course, De Nieuwe Opera Academie, in Amsterdam. There she performed several roles to great acclaim, including Hermia in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, under Lukas Vis; Ruggiero in Handel's *Alcina*, under Richard Eggar; Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, and Zita in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, both under Jeremy Carnall.

Her most recent European performances include Eurilda in Haydn's *Le Pescatrici* for KammerOper Wien under Daniel Hoyem-Cavazza, Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* at Valencia's Palau de la Musica under Juan Antonio Ramirez and Gertrude in *Hansel und Gretel* for Teatro Castell.

In 2010 Anna performed one of the maids in *Elektra*, and Beethoven's *Symphony no. 9*, both with Auckland Philharmonia, gave a recital entitled 'Heroes and Heroines' at the Hawkes Bay Opera House, with renowned accompanist David Harper at the piano, and sang *Messiah* with both Christchurch City Choir and Auckland Choral Society. Forthcoming engagements include Wagner's *Wesendonk Lieder* for Hastings Choral Society, the role of Wellgunde in a concert performance of *Das Rheingold* for Auckland Philharmonia and Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana* for NBR New Zealand Opera in both Auckland and Wellington.

Other recent engagements include the role of Suzuki in a concert performance of *Madama Butterfly* with Auckland Philharmonia, *Messiah* for Napier Civic Choir, a New Zealand tour performing Spanish operetta with David Harper and Tenor, José Aparicio, and Hansel in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, for NBR NZ Opera. Anna also realised the roles of Frau F. Bergmann and Frau Gabor in the World Premiere of *Frühlings Erwachen* by Belgium's premier composer Benoît Mernier with La Monnaie/De Munt, Brussels, under Jonas Alber. She was subsequently invited to perform the revival of *Frühlings Erwachen* for the Opera National du Rhin in Strasbourg in summer 2008, under Daniel Klajner.

Anna has performed throughout the UK, Spain and New Zealand, in concert and oratorio including a Gala performance with the NZSO under Michael Lloyd as a Mobil Song Quest finalist. Concert presentations in UK and NZ include *Les Nuits D'été*, (Berlioz), *Italienisches Liederbuch*, (Wolf) and *Schéhéhrazade* (Ravel) with German pianist Paul Cibis. In 2006, together with London-based pianist Lada Valesova, Anna presented a concert tour, which included New Zealand, entitled 'Slavic Soul', a presentation of ensemble and solo repertoire by Romantic Russian and Czech composers.

Anna holds a BMus and MMus from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Roles performed there include Venus in *La Didone*, (Cavalli - GSMD), Jenny in *Die Dreigroschenoper*, (Weill – English National Opera 1st framework), and Conception in *L'Heure Espagnol*, (Ravel Scenes– GSMD). Highlights included a Gala performance of scenes from *Die Zauberflöte*, (Mozart – GSMD), conducted by Sir Colin Davis, in which Anna sang Erste Dame.

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