



## Anita Watson Soprano

Sydney Soprano Anita Watson is a graduate with honours from the Australian Opera Studio, Perth and of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, having completed a Bachelor of Music (Performance) in 2002.

In 2005 Anita was the winner of The Australian Singing Competition's prestigious Marianne Mathy Scholarship, and Opera Foundation Australia's German Operatic Award. Other competition successes include 2nd prize in the 2007 Queen Sonja International Music Competition in Oslo, and 4th prize in the 2007 Neue Stimmen Competition in Germany from a field of over 1100 entrants.

For the Australian Opera Studio Anita performed the title role in Handel's *Xerxes*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Gretel, Sandmännchen and Taumännchen *Hänsel und Gretel* Ida *Die Fledermaus*, Cleopatra *Giulio Cesare*, Lucia *The Rape of Lucretia*, Pedro *Don Quichotte*, Susanna *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Micaela *Carmen*, and Naiad *Ariadne auf Naxos*. At the International Vocal Arts Institute in Israel in 2006, Anita performed the role of Ann Putnam in Robert Ward's *The Crucible*.

In August 2006, Anita joined the Cologne Opera Studio as the winner of Opera Foundation Australia's 2005 German Operatic Award and performed the role of Barena in Janacek's *Jenufa*, the second Edelknabe *Lohengrin* and die zweite adelige Waise *Der Rosenkavalier*. Children's operas included *Das Operschiff*, *Die Nachtigall*, *Die Heilige Ente*, *Des Kaisers neue Kleider* and Wagner's *Die Feen*. She also understudied the roles of Mimì *La Bohème*, Der Waldvogel *Siegfried* and Ninette *L'amour des Trois Orange*.

ABC Classic FM broadcast a solo recital of Anita Watson in 2006 and she was also heard on radio in the 2005 Finals of The Australian Singing Competition. Her other ABC Classic FM broadcasts have included Cabaret Classique in 2004, and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music production of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in 2001.

As a soloist in oratorio, Anita has performed in *Carmina Burana*, *African Sanctus*, the Rutter *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Tippet's *A Child of our Time*, the Fauré *Requiem*, Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Gounod's *Redemption*. She made her debut with the Sydney Symphony orchestra in 2006 in an all Mozart Programme conducted by Richard Gill.

Upon completion of her contract in Cologne, Anita moved to London where she is now a member of the prestigious Royal Opera House Covent Garden Jette Parker Young Artist program. Her first performances with them include singing the title role in Donizetti's comic opera *Rita*, Flowermaiden *Parsifal*, First Lady *The Magic Flute* and Naiad *Ariadne auf Naxos*, as well as understudying Contessa *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

Anita has also been invited by Antony Pappano, Music Director of the Royal Opera House to sing in three performances of Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* under his baton, in Rome in April 2008.