



## Anita Watson Soprano

*Naiad Ariadne auf Naxos*, Royal Opera House

"The excellence of Naiad, Dryad, and Echo (Respectively, Anita Watson, Sarah Castle, and Anna Leese), who accompany Ariadne throughout, was a measure of the high vocal standards of this production. .... Ms Watson, who obviously has a big future ahead of her.", 1 July 2008

Robert R. Reilly,

*Seen and Heard* July 2008

*Rita*, Royal Opera House

"... Watson possesses a pure, easy soprano, and every coloratura run, every roulade, every decoration is deployed to further her thoughtful, convincing and humorous characterisation."

Dave Paxton

[www.musicomh.com](http://www.musicomh.com) October 2007

Born in Sydney, Australian soprano Anita Watson graduated with honours from the Australian Opera Studio, after completing a Bachelor of Music from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

In 2005 Anita was the winner of The Australian Singing Competition's prestigious Marianne Mathy Scholarship, and Opera Foundation Australia's German Operatic Award, leading to a contract with Cologne Opera. The same year Anita won the City of Sydney Opera Awards and the Opera and Arts Support Group Vocal Scholarship, and was a finalist in the McDonald's Aria competition.

Other competition successes include second prize in the 2007 Queen Sonja International Music Competition in Oslo, and 4th prize in the 2007 Neue Stimmen Competition, Germany.

For the Australian Opera Studio, Anita's roles included the title role in Handel's *Xerxes*, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, Gretel, Sandmännchen and Taumännchen in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Ida in *Die Fledermaus*, Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare*, Lucia in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Pedro in *Don Quichotte*, Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Micaela in *Carmen*, and the role of Najade in Strauss's *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*.

For Cologne Opera, Anita performed the role of Barena in Janacek's *Jenufa*, the second Edelknabe in *Lohengrin* and die zweite adelige Weise in *Der Rosenkavalier*. Children's operas included *Das Operschiff*, *Die Nachtigall*, *Die Heilige Ente*, *Des Kaiser's 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 Oranges*).

In oratorio, Anita has been a soloist in *Carmina Burana*, *African Sanctus*, Rutter's *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Tippett's *A Child of our Time*, the Fauré *Requiem*, Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Gounod's *Redemption*. She has presented many concert recitals in Australia and appeared in concert in the USA, Austria, Germany, Japan, Hungary, China, Israel and the UK, as well as with the Sydney Symphony Sinfonia. Most recently Anita performed Beethoven *Symphony no. 9* with Antonio Pappano in Rome.

Anita Watson's Manager in Australasia is Graham Pushee: [graham@artsmanagement.com.au](mailto:graham@artsmanagement.com.au)  
assisted by Sarah Holloway: [sarah@artsmanagement.com.au](mailto:sarah@artsmanagement.com.au)

June 2009

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# ArtsManagement

Anita joined the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in September 2007 where her roles to date have included the title role in Donizetti's *Rita*, Flowergirl (*Parsifal*), First Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), Voice from Heaven (*Don Carlo*), Naiad (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Dew Fairy and Gretel (*Hänsel and Gretel*).

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