



Anita Watson Soprano

The Turn of the Screw | Teatro La Fenice

"Her free, generous use of a blessedly fresh, full, unforced lyric soprano promises much for the future."
Max Loppert, *Opera*, October 2010

Don Giovanni | Salzburg Landestheater

"Anita Watson does it exquisitely, with her amazingly brightly coloured and lightly appearing soprano voice, which has a solid, well grounded dramatic core."
Karl Harb, *Salzburger Nachrichten*, February 2011.

ARD International Music Competition

"This maturity was also revealed by Anita Watson, whose soprano voice possesses an overwhelming beautiful, shimmering timbre which is technically as well as musically capable of anything"
Klaus Kalchschmid, *Suddeutsche Zeitung*, September 2009.

"An eloquent and stylish performer (her clear, unforced diction is a particular pleasure) she excelled in the long plaintive lines of the gently folksy aria from Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*."
Yehuda Shapiro, *Opera Now*, December 2010

After completing a Bachelor of Music from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Australian soprano Anita Watson graduated with honours from the Australian Opera Studio. She was a member of the Cologne Opera Studio 2006-7 and the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden from 2007-9.

Anita has won prizes in many prestigious competitions amongst them the Australian Singing Competition, the Queen Sonja International Music Competition in Oslo, Neue Stimmen in Germany and the Plácido Domingo Operalia Competition. She was awarded the 1st prize and the audience award at the international ARD Music Competition in Munich in 2009, and the SWR Emmerich-Smola Prize in 2010.

Her performed roles at the Royal Opera House included the title role in Donizetti's *Rita*, Gretel and Dewfairy (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Flowergirl (*Parsifal*), First Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), Naiad (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), and Second Woman (*Dido and Aeneas*). While at the ROH, she also understudied Contessa (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) and Mimì (*La Bohème*). Other roles have included the title role in Handel's *Xerxes*, Cleopatra (*Giulio Cesare*), Lucia (*The Rape of Lucretia*), Pedro (*Don Quichotte*), Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Micaëla (*Carmen*) for the Australian Opera Studio, Barena (*Jenufa*) for Cologne Opera and Ann Putnam (*The Crucible*) for IVAI.

Anita has appeared worldwide in concerts, recitals and broadcasts. Her concert repertoire includes *Carmina Burana*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Tippett's *A Child of our Time*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Gounod's *Redemption*. She also performed the Strauss Vier letzte Lieder with the Rheinische Philharmonie in Koblenz and the Mariinsky Orchestra in St Petersburg, Mahler's 8th Symphony with Sir Mark Elder and Beethoven's *Symphony no. 9* with Antonio Pappano in Rome and Siena with the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia.

Anita made recently her Italian debut at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice as Governess in Britten's *Turn of the screw* and her Salzburg Festival debut as 5th Maid in *Elektra*. She also sang Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) for the Salzburg Landestheater, and recorded the role of Naiad (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) for Chandos. She has been invited to sing Mimì at the National Reiseoper in Netherlands and Donna Anna at Teatro La Fenice This year she will visit Australia to perform Beethoven *Symphony no. 9* with the MSO and Douglas Boyd.

Anita Watson's Manager in Australasia is Graham Pushee: graham@artsmanagement.com.au
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