



Catherine Carby Mezzo Soprano

Don Giovanni, Opera Australia

...Catherine Carby's Donna Elvira was the work's most interesting character in her comic, self-humiliating obsession with Giovanni, and she rose to the challenge with humour and poignancy. Her beautifully phrased and coloured Act II aria, *Mi tradi*, was a musico-dramatic turning.

Peter McCallum

Sydney Morning Herald, July 2008

Leading Australian mezzo soprano, Catherine Carby studied at the Canberra School of Music and the Royal College of Music, London.

In Australia she has performed with the major opera companies including the Victoria State Opera, Opera Australia, OzOpera and Opera Queensland in roles which include Mallika (*Lakme*), Flora (*La Traviata*), Carmen and Mercedes (*Carmen*), Jano (*Jenufa*), Valetto (*The Coronation of Poppea*), Rosina (*Barber of Seville*), Bersi (*Andrea Chenier*), Second Lady (*Magic Flute*), Lola (*Cavalleria Rusticana*), Countess Geschwitz (*Lulu*), for which she was nominated for a Green Room Award, Octavian (*Der Rosenkavalier*), Smeraldina (*The Love for Three Oranges*), Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*), and Fenena (*Nabucco*).

Whilst residing in the UK, Catherine was a finalist in several major competitions – the Kathleen Ferrier Award, the Richard Tauber Award and the Young Concert Artists Trust. She also made debuts with English National Opera as Kate Pinkerton (*Madame Butterfly*), with Scottish Opera as Octavian, with British Youth Opera in the title role of Britten's *Rape of Lucretia* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (subsequently issued on CD), and sang Vitige in *Flavio* and the title role *Muzio Scaevola* for the London Handel Festival.

International concert and recital engagements included a Verdi concert for the Hallé Orchestra under Mark Elder, a solo recital at St James' Piccadilly, Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* and Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at Southwark Cathedral, Flora in Albinoni's *Il Nascimento dell'Aurora* for Spitalfields Festival, concert performances of *The Marriage of Figaro* for London Mozart Players, Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* for Cambridge University Music, Bach's *B Minor Mass* at Exeter Cathedral, and *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Gardner Chamber Orchestra in Boston.

In Australasia she has performed Elgar's *Sea Pictures* with The Queensland Orchestra and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Mozart's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and the Superdome Spectacular with the Sydney Symphony, Haydn's *Arianna auf Naxos* with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and was a soloist in Opera Australia's New Year's Eve Gala Concert and Opera Under The Stars in Broome.

Recent roles with Opera Australia include Baba the Turk (*The Rake's Progress*), for which she won a Helpmann Award, Second Lady, Mallika, Ruth (*The Pirates of Penzance*), Maddalena (*Rigoletto*), Cornelia (*Giulio Cesare*), for which she received a Green Room Award, Mexican Woman (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Ruggiero (*Alcina*), the title role in *Carmen*, Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), Kristina (*The Makropulos Affair*), and Heavenly Being and Madam By-Ends (*The Pilgrims Progress*).

Recent concert engagements included *Messiah* for the Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, concert performances for Opera Australia including excerpts of Mozart's *Mitridate*, the Classic 100 Opera concert and in their 50th Anniversary Gala, Mozart's *Requiem* with both the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Philharmonia.

Catherine Carby's Manager in Australasia is Graham Pushee: graham@artsmanagement.com.au
assisted by Sarah Holloway: sarah@artsmanagement.com.au

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Catherine's 2009 engagements include Suzuki (*Madama Butterfly*), Second Lady (*Magic Flute*), Romeo (*I Capuleti e i Montecchi*) and Auntie (*Peter Grimes*) for Opera Australia, Haydn's *Missa in Tempore Belli* for Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and *Messiah* for Sydney Philharmonia Choirs.

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