



Emma Matthews Soprano

Lulu Opera Australia

"Emma Matthews, who began her career as a very light coloratura, has metamorphosed into the sort of soprano that Berg could only have dreamed about. Matthews is superb. Her high flexible soprano has become even more brilliant in colour and texture, and her coloratura still more effortlessly dazzling than before."

Maria Prerauer

Opera January 2004

The Tales of Hoffmann Opera Australia

"Emma Matthews' Olympia is a doll in more ways than one as she trills and thrills with liquid, finely placed coloratura.... Matthews is a show-stopper."

Deborah Jones

The Australian September 2001

Soprano Emma Matthews is a Principal Artist with Opera Australia, for which she made her debut as Damigella in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* in 1993. She is now regarded as one of Australia's most outstanding sopranos, equally at home with opera and concert repertoire.

Her roles in recent years for Opera Australia have included Juliette in *Romeo and Juliette*, the title role in *Lulu* which was received with great acclaim in Melbourne and Sydney, Sofia in *Il Signor Bruschino*, Zwaantie in Richard Mills' opera *Batavia* (a joint production between OA, Perth International Arts Festival and West Australian Opera for the 2004 Perth International Arts Festival), the title role in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Yum-Yum in *Mikado*, Sophie in *Rosenkavalier*, Oscar in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Stasi in *The Gypsy Princess*, Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica*, Olympia in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Almirena in *Rinaldo*, Servilia in *La Clemenza di Tito*, Ilia in *Idomeneo*, Blonde in *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, Papagena and Pamina in *The Magic Flute*, Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Sky/Aunt Olive/Tour Guide in *The Eighth Wonder*, Hero in *Beatrice et Benedict*, Marie in *La Fille du régiment*, Nannetta in *Falstaff*, Sophie in *Werther*, Adele in *Die Fledermaus* and Morgana in *Alcina*, the title role in *Lakme*, and Cleopatra in *Giulio Cesare*.

Emma is in demand as a concert artist and performs regularly with all the Symphony Australia Orchestras, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, and the New Zealand Chamber Orchestra. Concert highlights include Brahms' *German Requiem* with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Mahler *Symphony No. 2* with Sydney Philharmonia, Fauré *Requiem*, Mahler *Symphony No. 4*, *Exsultate Jubilate*, Poulenc *Gloria*, Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5*, Mozart *Coronation Mass* and *St. Matthew Passion*, Haydn *Nelson Mass*, Handel *Messiah* and Grieg *Peer Gynt*. In 2004 Emma appeared nationally as guest soloist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra in a programme of Mozart arias. In 2006 concert engagements included Mozart *Requiem* for Opera Australia and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and *St. John Passion* for Sydney Philharmonia

Other significant engagements include Ismene in Graham Vick's acclaimed production of *Mitridate, Re di Ponto* for the Sydney Festival, performances at the Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Huntington Festivals and her debut album *Handel Arias*, recorded with the New Zealand Chamber Orchestra.

She recently won the Helpmann Award (Best Female Performer in an Opera) for *The Love of the Nightingale* and is the recipient of a Mo Award (Classical Performer of the Year, 2004) and a Green Room Award (Best Female Singer in a Title Role, 2004) for her *Lulu* performances. She has also received three other Green Room Awards for her work in *La Clemenza di Tito* and *Rinaldo*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Batavia* (Best Female Singer in a Supporting Role) and was the recipient of the 1996 Remy Martin Australian Opera Award.

2007 was a particularly busy year for Emma, appearing as Rosina in the new production of *The Barber of Seville*, Konstanze in *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, the Four Heroines in *The Tales of Hoffmann* and the New Years Eve Gala for Opera Australia, Philomele in the world premiere season of Richard Mills' new opera *The Love of the Nightingale* in Perth, Mozart's *C minor Mass* with Sir Charles Mackerras and the Sydney Symphony and *Messiah* for Melbourne Symphony.

In January 2008 Emma appeared as a Special Guest with renowned tenor Jose Carreras in two concerts at the Sydney Opera House. Her roles for Opera Australia will include Zdenka in *Arabella*, the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Angelica in *Orlando*.

This biography is for website use only. For a full and updated biography for publication or for use in programs, or a shorter version, please email enquiries@artsmanagement.com.au

Telephone (02) 9211 9422 Facsimile (02) 9211 9466 E-mail enquiries@artsmanagement.com.au

ArtsManagement

Future events include her debut at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in the title role of *The Cunning Little Vixen*, a concert tour of *Mitridate* – Aspasia with Sir Charles Mackerras and Welsh National Opera, as well as a solo opera recital disc of bel canto arias with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo for Universal/ABC Classics.

This biography is for website use only. For a full and updated biography for publication or for use in programs, or a shorter version, please email enquiries@artsmanagement.com.au

Telephone (02) 9211 9422 Facsimile (02) 9211 9466 E-mail enquiries@artsmanagement.com.au