



## Emma Pearson Soprano

Queen of the Night, *Die Zauberflöte* (Opera Australia)

"Soprano Emma Pearson makes her Opera Australia debut as the Queen of the Night. Pearson's fiery coloratura, stylish phrasing and glamorous stage presence exude star quality, marking her out as a débutante to watch."  
*The Opera Critic, 22 January 2009*

"Emma Pearson was a stunning Queen of Night. ... She floated in on a cloud to sing her first aria bobbing up and down gently in mid air. It was a riveting performance which brought storms of applause. She made the fiendish runs a dramatic tool as Mozart intended: it wasn't merely display.

The subsequent vengeance aria was delivered at stage level was more of the same. She exuded a frightening malevolence, dripping venom which made Pamina reassess her situation."  
*Opera Magazine, January 2007. A. True*

"The Aennchen" positions Emma Pearson far away from the twittering Soubrette-type portrayal. Instead she succeeded with her nearly tragic girlfriend portrait, and triumphed with warm intonation, robust phrasing and balanced interpretation.  
*Das Opernglas, March 2008, B. Kempen*

Perth born Emma Pearson has been a principal artist at the Hessisches Staatstheater, Wiesbaden, in Germany since 2005. During this time she has performed over 25 roles, including Königin der Nacht in *Die Zauberflöte*, Olympia (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*) and Ännchen (*Der Freischütz*), with critical acclaim. In 2009, Emma debuts in the title role in Berg's *Lulu*, for the International Maifestspiel in Wiesbaden, conducted by Marc Piollet.

Recently Emma has been invited to perform a Haydn and Mozart recital for the Rheingau Musik Festival, and at the 2008 Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele she sang the role of Parthenia in Schweitzer's opera *Alceste*, with Concerto Köln, conducted by Michael Hofstetter. She is also a regular performer with the baroque music ensemble Ensemble Mattiacus and KirchenMusik conducted by Christian Pfeifer.

Previous to her work in Germany, Emma performed for NBR New Zealand Opera, in the roles of Fiordiligi in *Così fan Tutte* and Frasquita in *Carmen*, conducted by Emmanuel Plasson. She has sung Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony in Tokyo and performed many operettas, musical theatre, oratorio, and chamber recitals in the UK, Germany, Japan and China as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

Emma completed her formal opera training in 2003, after attaining a Bachelor of Music (Vocal Performance) from the University of Western Australia which was followed by 2 years at the Australian Opera Studio, graduating with Honours. As a student of the A.O.S. Emma performed the title role of Handel's *Alcina*, the Governess (*Turn of the Screw*), Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Amenaide (*Tancredi*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*) and many others under the tuition of Gregory Yurisch, Patricia Price and Anthea Moller.

In 2004 Emma won the Australian Singing Competition's prestigious Marianne Mathy Scholarship and the Symphony Australia Young Artist Prize, while she was performing in productions with NBR New Zealand Opera. In the same year she also won the More Than Opera German-Australian Opera Grant and Audience Prize, which led to her current contract at the Hessisches Staatstheater, Wiesbaden. In the 2007 Neue Stimmen International Singing Competition Emma received the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prize from the Bertelsmann Stiftung.

This year Emma made her Opera Australia debut as the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* to great public and artistic acclaim. She will reprise this role with Southern Opera in New Zealand later in the year.

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