



Emma Pearson Soprano

"Soprano Emma Pearson makes her Opera Australia début 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

"The greatest applause of the evening was for Emma Pearson from Australia who gave a truly dramatic coloratura rendition of "The wrath of hell" aria in Act Two, with clear top Fs. This was thrilling singing."
The Opera Critic: H. Livingston, 29 September 09

"Emma Pearson sang and acted Lulu with immense intensity, showing her supple and flexible lyrical soprano voice has all the facets of the difficult role. She conquered the internalised moments just as she did the expressive ones and in this way, she could release the vulnerable side of the childlike-woman. As well as this, her expression-filled acting never let the vocal quality suffer."
Das Opernglas: L-E Gerth, June 09

"A close to superhuman achievement accomplished the outstanding Emma Pearson in the title role this evening. Finally at the end of the opera her never-ceasing employment was met with huge applause. Vocally she is supremely good and focused. She is flexible as an authentic actress should be. She could hardly be any better."
Frankfurter Neue Presse: D. Honsack, 4 May 09

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 the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, Olympia (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Nanetta (*Falstaff*) and Ännchen (*Der Freischütz*), with critical acclaim. In 2009, Emma debuted in the title role in Berg's *LULU*, for the International Maifestspiel in Wiesbaden, conducted by Marc Piollet. For these performances she was nominated "Singer of the Year" by OpernWelt Magazine. In 2011 Emma is returning to Wiesbaden to perform Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*.

Recently, Emma has been invited to perform in the Bach Festival Leipzig, in recital at the Rheingau Musik Festival and in the role of Parthenia (*Alceste*) in the 2008 Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele conducted by Michael Hofstetter. She is also a regular performer with the baroque music ensemble Ensemble Mattiacus and Kammermusik in Wiesbaden.

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 was invited to sing in Beethoven's Symphony No.9 in Tokyo and has performed many operettas, musical theatre, oratorio, and chamber recitals in the UK, Germany, Japan and China and 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 (1998-2001) and then two years at the Australian Opera Studio, graduating with Honours. As a student of the AOS, Emma performed in their entirety 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 Yurisich, Patricia Price and Anthea Moller. Emma currently studies with David Harper and in Salzburg with Barbara Bonney.

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 lead to her current contract at the Hessisches Staatstheater, Wiesbaden. In the 2007 Neue Stimmen International Singing Competition, Emma received the 20th Anniversary Prize from the Bertelsmann Stiftung. In 2009 Emma was nominated for a Robert Helpmann Award, and was thrilled to win the Australian Singing Competition's Opera Awards and Royal Overseas League Music Bursary.

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

April 2010

Not to be altered or reprinted without permission – this biography is for website use only

Telephone (+61 2) 9211 9422 Facsimile (+61 2) 9211 9466

ArtsManagement

In 2009, Emma made her Opera Australia debut as the Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute* to great public and artistic acclaim. She performed this role again, later in the year, with Southern Opera in New Zealand. This year, her Australasian performances include the role of Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* for NBR New Zealand Opera, and soloist in Beethoven's Symphony No.9 with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

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

April 2010

Not to be altered or reprinted without permission – this biography is for website use only

Telephone (+61 2) 9211 9422 Facsimile (+61 2) 9211 9466