



Kathryn McCusker Soprano

A Midsummer Night's Dream Edinburgh Festival
.....As Tytania, Kathryn McCusker floated her treacherous, high-lying phrases with grace and ease".
The Independent

Idomeneo Opera Australia
"Ilia was beautifully portrayed by Kathryn McCusker, with a bright, forward voice and graceful bearing".
The Bulletin

Soprano Kathryn McCusker studied for her Bachelor of Music Degree at the Western Australian Conservatorium of Music and is equally at home with opera and concert repertoire. She has won several prestigious prizes and scholarships, including first prize in the 1991 National Finals of the ABC Young Performers Award, the 1994 Remy Martin Australian Opera Award and the 1999 Vienna State Opera Award.

From 1994 until 1999 Kathryn was a principal soprano with Opera Australia. Her roles included Barbarina in Tim Albery's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Drusilla in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Ilia in *Idomeneo*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Dircé in *Médée*, the Dew Fairy in Elijah Moshinsky's production of *Hansel and Gretel* (commercial video release), A Wood-sprite in *Rusalka*, First lover in *Il Tabarro*, Suor Genovieffa in *Suor Angelica*, Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi*, Marzelline in *Fidelio*, Oberto in *Alcina*, Servilia in *La clemenza di Tito*, Iphigénie in a new production of *Iphigénie en Tauride* and Susanna in John Copley's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Early highlights include her role as Tytania in the acclaimed new production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Baz Luhrmann and performed at the 1994 Edinburgh Festival, Romilda in Nicholas Hytner's production of *Xerxes* for the Victoria State Opera and Mimi in a concert performance of *La bohème*. During her time in Australia, Kathryn has worked with conductors including Christopher Hogwood, Jane Glover, Richard Hickox, Carlo Felice Cillario and Richard Bonyngé.

Kathryn made her European debut at the beginning of 2000 singing the role of Antonia in Opéra de Massy's new production of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and in the same year she was a company principal with the Vienna State Opera, performing such roles as Countess Ceprano in *Rigoletto*.

In 2000 Kathryn had notable success when she went on to sing the role of Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, conducted by Sir Andrew Davis. In 2001 she sang the role of Tirsi in Covent Garden Festival's production of Handel's *Clori, Tirsi e Fileno* and in 2002 she made her debut for English National Opera covering the role of Ginevra in *Ariodante* which she also sung in the final performance. This resulted in an invitation to work on a new opera by Ian Wilson for the ENO Studio.

Other significant engagements include the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro* for the West Australian Opera, the lead role in a new opera *Rendezvous* by the Australian Composer Lindsay Vickery, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* for Holland Park Opera and Ginevra in *Ariodante* for Freiburg Opera. In 2003 she sang the role of Isotta in Strauss's *Die Schweigsame Frau* for Garsington Opera and Rosalia in Rossini's *L'Equivoco Stravagante* for their 2004 season. Kathryn recently performed the role of Iphise in Rameau's *Dardanus* for Pinchgut Opera, Sydney which was recorded by the ABC.

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

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

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As a concert artist Kathryn has appeared with all the Symphony Australia orchestras, and in the UK, concert performances have included Handel's *Messiah*, Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, Vivaldi's *Magnificat* and a tour of major UK concert venues performing Handel arias with the London Chamber Orchestra.

www.kathrynmccusker.com

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