



## Margaret Medlyn Soprano

*Parsifal* – State Opera of South Australia

“...New Zealand soprano Margaret Medlyn was the superb female lead as the enigmatic and tragic Kundry... The highlight of the evening was the long passionate scene of seduction and rejection between Kundry and Parsifal, with (Poul) Elming and Medlyn perfectly paired and both in magnificent voice, the orchestra swelling and falling to match their emotions.”

Tristram Cary

*The Australian* September 24 2001

*Salome* - Opera Australia Melbourne

“Soprano Margaret Medlyn is in mighty voice throughout her marathon performance in the title role, and her final scene, with John’s severed head, is a triumph of ghastly, lascivious tenderness.”

Neil Jillett

*The Sunday Age* November 30 2003

*Turandot* – The NBR New Zealand Opera

“...the vocal and dramatic performance of the night is Margaret Medlyn’s in the title role...from the moment she opens her mouth to sing a totally gripping ‘In questa reggia’ every moment she is on stage belongs to her. She is not afraid to let her voice be unlovely, which merely makes it even more gripping. Her portrayal of a woman who wants to lose and break the cycle of death is subtle and believable.”

Paul Little

*Sunday Star Times* September 23 2007

Margaret Medlyn is one of Australasia's finest singers, with consistently highly acclaimed performances in opera, oratorio and recitals, as soloist with all of the top choirs and symphony orchestras, and with the New Zealand International Festival of the Arts, and Perth International Festival of the Arts.

English-born, Margaret immigrated to New Zealand as a child. After graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Performance from Auckland University, she went back to the UK, where she made her operatic debut as Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier* with London's Opera Viva after which she performed with Kent Opera for four years.

Since returning to live in New Zealand, Margaret has sung for English National Opera, Covent Garden, Vienna State Opera and all the opera companies in Australia, including Opera Australia.

Margaret Medlyn’s recent roles include Salome in *Salome*, Marie in *Wozzeck*, Agathe in *Der Freischütz*, Giorgetta in *Il tabarro* and Leonore in *Il trovatore* for Opera Australia, Maddalena di Coigny in *Andrea Chénier* and Leonore in *Il trovatore* for Opera Queensland, Leonore in *Il Trovatore* and Kundry in *Parsifal* for State Opera of South Australia, and *Aida* and *Tosca* for NBR New Zealand Opera.

She has an extensive concert repertoire and has sung with all the major orchestras in Australasia with recent performances including Guttrune in *Götterdämmerung* with West Australian Symphony for Perth International Arts Festival, Strauss’ *Four Last Songs* with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Sieglinde in *Die Walküre* for the Sydney Symphony and Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony* in Kuala Lumpur with the Malaysian Philharmonic.

Conductors she has worked with include Jeffrey Tate, Mark Elder, Simone Young, Donald Runnicles, Edo de Waart, Markus Stenz, Carlo Felice Cillario, Gabor Ötvös, Jaap van Sweden and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

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# ArtsManagement

As a national recording artist for Radio New Zealand, she recorded an extensive list of recital programmes and also released a CD entitled *Burning Bright* featuring the work of four New Zealand women composers under the Kiwi Pacific label.

In 2006 Margaret sang in the Skycity Starlight Symphony Concert in Auckland, recitals for New Zealand Wagner Society, Kundry in performances of Parsifal with New Zealand Symphony for the New Zealand Festival of the Arts, Judith in a concert performance of *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* for Auckland Philharmonia, in association with NBR New Zealand Opera and the title role in a concert performance of *Salome* with Simone Young conducting for Brisbane Festival. She also added Isolde to her repertoire, covering the role for Welsh National Opera's production of *Tristan und Isolde*.

In 2007 concerts included *Opera in The Park* in Nelson, a number of Wagner recitals, a special Wagnerian concert with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra in September and a recital for The Gregory Aim Opera Trust. She also sang the title role in *Turandot* for NBR New Zealand Opera in Auckland and Wellington.

In 2008 engagements include the role of Salome in concert for Auckland Philharmonia, Kostelnicka in *Jenufa* for NBR New Zealand Opera and Judith in *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* in a concert performance for Vector Wellington Orchestra in collaboration with NBR New Zealand Opera.

Please visit her website [www.margaretmedlyn.com](http://www.margaretmedlyn.com)

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