



## 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

*Jenufa* – The NBR New Zealand Opera

"...in Margaret Medlyn the company had an ideal interpreter. Medlyn's voice is perfectly suited to the part, with her rich, powerful middle register combining with her secure top to provide a musically visceral account of the role. Add to that her restless acting style and the result was a near flawless performance that was both chilling and uplifting at the same time."

Michael Sinclair

[www.TheOperaCritic.com](http://www.TheOperaCritic.com) September 20, 2008

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, Perth International Festival of the Arts and Brisbane Festival.

English-born, Margaret immigrated to New Zealand as a child. After graduating with a Bachelor of Music in Performance from Auckland University, she returned 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.

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

This year Margaret makes her debut in the role of Senta in *The Flying Dutchman* for State Opera of South Australia.

Margaret Medlyn's Manager in Australasia is Judith Alexander: [judith@artsmanagement.com.au](mailto:judith@artsmanagement.com.au)  
assisted by Sarah Thomas: [sarah.thomas@artsmanagement.com.au](mailto:sarah.thomas@artsmanagement.com.au)

March 2009

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# ArtsManagement

Other 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*, *Tosca* and *Turandot* for NBR New Zealand Opera. She has also performed Judith in a concert performance of *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* for Auckland Philharmonia, in association with NBR New Zealand Opera, the title role in a concert performance of *Salome* with Simone Young conducting for Brisbane Festival, Kundry in *Parsifal* with New Zealand Symphony for the New Zealand Festival of the Arts, and added Isolde to her repertoire, covering the role for Welsh National Opera's production of *Tristan und Isolde*.

She has an extensive recital programme and concert repertoire and has sung with all the major orchestras in Australasia with more 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; Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in Kuala Lumpur with the Malaysian Philharmonic, Opera in The Park in Nelson Skycity Starlight Symphony Concert in Auckland and a special Wagnerian concert with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

She has worked with such conductors as Mark Elder, Simone Young, Donald Runnicles, Edo de Waart, Markus Stenz, Carlo Felice Cillario, Gabor Ötvös, Jaap van Sweden and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

As a national recording artist for Radio New Zealand, Margaret has 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.

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

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