

Joanna Harries

MEZZO SOPRANO



Born in New Zealand and raised in Wales, mezzo soprano Joanna Harries is a 2021/22 Young Artist at the National Opera Studio in London. She was a choral scholar at the University of Cambridge and went on to train at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Alexander Gibson Opera Studio at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She is currently an Opera Prelude Young Artist and a former Britten-Pears Young Artist and Handel House Talent Artist.

In the current season engagements include **Diana** in Scott Stroman's *The Weekend* at the Bloomsbury Theatre; *The Moon Hares* a schools project performance for the OAE; **Karolka** *Jenůfa* for Fulham Opera; a series of performances with Opera Prelude; a Britten Pears masterclass and recital with Sarah Connolly and Joseph Middleton; and SongPath at the Oxford Botanic Gardens as part of the Oxford Lieder Festival.

Her operatic roles stretch from baroque to contemporary and include the title role *Sāvītri* (Hampstead Garden Opera); **Dido** *Dido and Aeneas* (Dartington Arts Festival); **Zerlina** *Don Giovanni* (Merry Opera Company); **Varava** *Kát'a Kabanová* (Fulham Opera); **Drummer** *The Emperor of Atlantis* in Polly Graham's production (Loud Crowd & CHROMA); **Nun** *The Fiery Angel* (Scottish Opera); and **Ottone** *Agrippina* and **Jenny Hildebrand** *Street Scene* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland).

In contemporary music she has premiered roles in new operas including **Prometheus** in Tim Benjamin's *The Fire of Olympus*; **Tartine** in David Blake and Keith Warner's *Scoring a Century* (British Youth Opera); **Awen** (cover) in Pwyll ap Sion's *Gair ar Grawd* (Welsh National Opera); and **Girl/Psychiatrist** in Scott Stroman and Tamsin Collison's *Fever Pitch*, an adaptation of the iconic Nick Hornby book.

As concert soloist her performances include Bach *Christmas Oratorio* (Snape Maltings); Macmillan *Seven Last Words From The Cross* (BBC Philharmonic); Bach *Easter Oratorio* (Bach Festival Świdnica, Poland); Bach *St. Matthew Passion* (Skipton Camerata); Handel *Messiah* (Lincoln Cathedral); Haydn *Theresienmesse* (Chester Cathedral); and Beethoven's *Symphony No.9* (Sheffield Cathedral). A keen recitalist, Joanna was awarded the Edith Brass Prize for Lieder at the RCS and has performed song and Lieder at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Britten Studio at Snape Maltings, Pushkin House and the National Portrait Gallery.

Joanna is co-founder of SongPath with contralto Jess Dandy, an initiative bringing together music, walking and nature for mental health. She was awarded a 2021 Royal Philharmonic Society Enterprise Award for her new podcast *Songs of the River* and is currently developing a series of new one-woman operas about the women behind space exploration with soprano Fiona Finsbury in a residency at Snape Maltings in 2022.

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