

PRESSQUOTES

Joanna Harries

MEZZO SOPRANO

Diana / The Weekend / Highbury Opera Theatre / 2021
Cond. Scott Stroman / John Ramster

"Joanna Harries is the standout amongst the support cast, her mezzo-soprano lending pathos to the daughter whose life is falling apart yet nobody is willing to speak to her."
(Broadway World / Gary Naylor)

Innkeeper's Wife / The Cunning Little Vixen / Longborough Festival Opera / 2021
Cond. Justin Brown / Olivia Fuchs

"The other roles come and go in quick succession, and are sung charismatically – among them, David Howes's authoritative Priest and Joanna Harries's trenchant Innkeeper's Wife might be singled out."
(Classicalsource / Curtis Rodgers)

Sāvitri / Sāvitri / Hampstead Garden Opera / 2020
Cond. Thomas Payne / Dir. Julia Mintzer

"Harries sang with conviction and emotional force... the only flesh-and-blood character..."
(The Times / Neil Fisher)

"Joanna Harries...sang the impassioned Savitri, with [a] crisp light, mezzo"
(Opera / Hugh Canning)

"If Holst's opera rarely grabs you in the viscera, it can be touching, as it was performed here by Joanna Harries and Esme Bronwen Smith, with their light expressive mezzos"
(The Sunday Times / Hugh Canning)

"The young singers, unamplified, bring admirable clarity to their projection of Holst's sometimes cryptic English text and declamatory, yet lyrical vocal lines...Joanna Harries is both gentle and strong as Savitri"
(The Stage / Yehuda Shapiro)

"Throughout the performance, Harries's robust mezzo-soprano adroitly navigated the shifting moods and keys of the piece, letting rip in her final exchange with Death. "Give me life, life is all I ask of thee," she implores, redolent of Salome in her final moments – albeit with a nobler design."
(Bachtrack / Timmy Fisher)

"A beautiful and hugely memorable evening... Savitri [is] played with passionate energy by mezzo-soprano Joanna Harries"
(Ham & High / David Winskill)

Drummer / The Emperor of Atlantis / Loud Crowd & CHROMA / 2019
Cond. Timothy Burke / Dir. Polly Graham

"An outstandingly intense cast (Chiara Vinci, Joanna Harries, Peter Brathwaite) also help to evoke the manic mixture of desperation, determination and fatalistic urgency."
(The Times / Richard Morrison)

Tartine / Scoring a Century / British Youth Opera / 2019
Cond. Lionel Friend / Dir. Keith Warner

"But the level of talent displayed by the young cast – many of them taking multiple roles – holds the attention through scene after scene. Among her manifold duties, Joanna Harries displays acumen as nightclub singer Tartine, while Guy Elliott successfully juggles several roles."
(The Stage / George Hall)

"Joanna Harries as the pert and flirtatious Tartine, delivered a rather uncomfortable slice of reality into the proceedings."
(Planet Hugill)

"Joanna Harries was a very accomplished and appealing Tartine."
(University of York Music Press)

Prometheus / The Fire of Olympus / Radius Opera, 2019
Cond. Ellie Sloarch / Dir. Tim Benjamin

"Joanna Harries' mezzo soprano and performance as Prometheus was quietly subtle and deeply sincere"
(Number 9 Reviews)

Drummer / The Emperor of Atlantis / Royal Conservatoire of Scotland / 2018
Cond. Lionel Friend / Caroline Clegg

"The Emperor is a glorious feast with every member of the seven-strong cast rising to its musical demands as brilliantly as they do it the characterisation and physical demands of the performance."
(The Herald / Keith Bruce)

"The energetic cast of singers really bought into the premise, and the scabrous score gave them plenty of opportunities to shine... The pair of ladies were well contrasted too, the sweetness of Nina Coleman's Bubikopf nicely balancing the melodrama of Joanna Harries' Drummer."
(Seen & Heard International / Simon Thompson)

Jenny Hildebrand / Street Scene / Royal Conservatoire of Scotland / 2018
Cond. Robert Houssart / Dir. Alexandra Spencer-Jones

"One hit wonders aplenty too from Joanna Harries as Jenny Hildebrand, happily graduating from college, but returning to face family eviction"
(Bachtrack / David Smythe)

"Joanna Harries capably led the trio of school graduates celebrating the award of diplomas 'Wrapped in a ribbon, tied up in a bow'."
(Opera Scotland)

Ottone / Agrippina / Royal Conservatoire of Scotland / 2017
Cond. David Watkin / John Ramster

"Joanna Harries was a... thoughtful Ottone, heartbreaking in her aria when shunned by everyone at the end of the first half."

(Bachtrack / David Smythe)

"Another outstanding interpretation was that of Joanna Harries as Ottone. A newcomer to the Conservatoire, she has a beautifully schooled mezzo and projected each of her emotionally penetrating arias with great accomplishment. In the farcical antics of the bedroom scene she also displayed a useful flair for comic timing."

(Opera Scotland)

Girl & Psychiatrist / Fever Pitch / Highbury Opera Theatre / 2017
Cond. Scott Stroman / Dir. Bernie C. Byrnes

"[The cast] give very strong performances throughout the show...their voices, especially Harries' and Gildon's, are especially polished"

(A Younger Theatre / Tricia Wey)

"And finally we see Gooner with the psychiatrist, Joanna Harries in fine voice, in "Everyone needs a tribe"..."

(Pocket Size Theatre / Nick Wayne)

"There are stars all over the pitch here... Joanna Harries, the super-sub who helps carry the second half to a successful conclusion with her evocative vocals."

(Artibravi / Franco Milazzo)

Mrs Jones / Street Scene / Royal Northern College of Music / 2015
Cond. Clark Rundell / Dir. Stefan Janski

"[The cast] included some remarkably mature singers and some excellent acting. I can't possibly mention everyone, but I have to pick out Joanna Harries, as Emma Jones, the warm-hearted wiseacre of the wives – her vivid Noo Joisey tones were a delight."

(Manchester Evening News / Robert Beale)

Semi-chorus / Gair ar Grawd / Welsh National Opera / 2015
Cond. Jenny Pearson / Dir. Angharad Lee

"There was some gloriously rich singing from the developers/builders played by a semi-chorus"

(Arts Scene in Wales / Mike Smith)

Baba the Turk / The Rake's Progress / Cambridge University / 2011
Cond. Christopher Stark / Dir. Claudia Parkes

"Perhaps most at home in their roles, however [was] Harries, who brought the house down, not so much with her fetching facial hair as with her spot-on comic timing."

(Varsity / Anna Campbell)