

## PRESSQUOTES

### Olivia Ray

MEZZO SOPRANO

**Anna Politkovskaya / The Life & Death of Alexander Litvinenko / Grange Park Opera / 2021**  
**Cond. Stephen Barlow / Dir. Stephen Medcalf**

*"Olivia Ray sang strongly as crusading journalist Anna Politkovskaya."*  
(Financial Times / Richard Fairman)

*"Olivia Ray's rich and defiant voice as journalist Anna Politkovskaya."*  
(Operawire / Benjamin Poore)

*"Olivia Ray's dignified, compassionate singing as the murdered journalist Anna Politkovskaya."*  
(The Spectator / Richard Bratby)

**Purbeck International Chamber Music Festival / 2019**  
**Elizabeth Kenny (lute) / Lana Trotovsšek, Max Baillie (vn) / Gareth Lubbe (va)**  
**Abel Selaocoe (vc)**

*"Among the many highlights I heard were enthralling Purcell songs from mezzo Olivia Ray and lutenist Elizabeth Kenny... Samuel Barber's Dover Beach cast its spell, Olivia Ray totally rapt in delivery..."*  
(Midland Classical Music Making / Christopher Morley)

**Lady Spencer / Georgiana / Buxton International Festival / 2019**  
**Cond. Mark Tatlow / Dir. Matthew Richardson**

*"Olivia Ray adds a touch of class as Georgiana's Mother."*  
(The Telegraph / Rupert Christiansen)

*"Olivia Ray makes a very effective contribution as Lady Spencer (Georgiana's mother)"*  
(Manchester Classical Music / Robert Beale)

*"Georgina's mother, Lady Spencer, was played by mezzo-soprano, Olivia Ray, who made the most of what was not a large part. In her aria, "I will not stand for this naivety," in which she lets Georgiana know her thoughts about the devious Lady Bess, she showed off her versatile voice. She possesses a colorful palette, which she used to tint her lines with emotional emphases, and her passaggio was seamless, allowing her to move rapidly up and down the scale with ease, in what was an engaging rendition."*  
(Operawire / Alan Neilson)

*"Olivia Ray's glorious tones immediately impressed in her first aria as Lady Spencer."*  
(Bernard Lee Music / Michael Tipler)

**Gertrude / Roméo et Juliette / Grange Park Opera / 2018**  
**Cond. Stephen Barlow / Dir. Patrick Mason**

*"Olivia Ray's finely sung Gertrude, cast as a confidante-chaperone rather than a nurse, worked very well."*  
(Opera / Peter Reed)

*"Olivia Ray was superb as Juliette's nurse Gertrude. Her beautiful stage movement suggests serious dance training, unusual among opera singers."*

(Mark Ronan Theatre Reviews)

*"an immensely stylish, beautifully sung Gertrude, here cast as a chaperone-confidante rather than a nurse, from Olivia Ray."*

(Classicalsource)

*"Olivia Ray is a force as Gertrude..."*

(British Theatre Guide / Louise Lewis)

*"Olivia Ray brings a flightiness to Juliette's conniving nurse Gertrude."*

(The Express / Claire Colvin)

*"Olivia Ray discovers more than you might expect in Juliette's nurse Gertrude."*

(The Stage / George Hall)

*"Olivia Ray was a strong and reassuring presence as Juliette's nurse Gertrude..."*

(CriticsCircle / Sebastian Scotney)

**Rossini *Petite messe solennelle* / Three Choirs Festival / 2016  
Cond. Geraint Bowen**

*"I heard Olivia Ray earlier this year in a performance of Elgar's The Apostles here in Gloucester. I liked the sound of her voice then and it was a pleasure to hear her again today. She sang very well in 'Qui tollis' and elsewhere contributed very effectively to the quartet. The mezzo's big moment comes in the 'Agnus Dei', a very demanding movement. Miss Ray sang her solo passages in this movement with warm, round tone and a marked degree of commitment building, along with the choir, to an impassioned plea 'Dona nobis pacem'."*

(Seen & Heard International / John Quinn)

**Ravel *Trois Poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé* / Music under Fire / Sound Collective / 2014  
Artistic Director. Tom Hammond**

*"...it is very attractive music, particularly when sung with such richness and depth as possessed by mezzo Olivia Ray."*

(Notes from Middle England Blogspot / Chris Ramsden)

**Flora / La traviata / Grange Park Opera / 2014  
Cond. Gianluca Marcianò / Dir. Lindsay Posner**

*"Olivia Ray made a glamorous Flora"*

(Opera / Richard Fairman)

*"Olivia Ray is elegant and vivacious as Flora, singing with lovely tone and acting with smart precision."*

(Bachtrack / Charlotte Valori)

*"Olivia Ray's confident Flora made a very strong impression."*

(MusicOMH / Melanie Eskenazi)

*"Olivia Ray made a glamorous Flora, a tall blond foil to Rutter's dark Violetta."*

(Planet Hugill)

*"Characterful support from Olivia Ray (Flora)"*

(The Times / Anna Picard)

**Soeur Mathilde / Dialogues des Carmélites / Grange Park Opera / 2013**  
**Cond. Stephen Barlow / Dir. John Doyle**

*"The other small roles were strongly taken with Kathleen Wilkinson as Mere Jeanne and Olivia Ray as Soeur Mathilde."*

(Planet Hugill)

**Alisa / Lucia di Lammermoor / Opera Holland Park / 2012**  
**Cond. Stuart Stratford / Dir. Olivia Fuchs**

*"a strongly sung and touching Alisa from Olivia Ray."*

(Classicalsource / Peter Reed)

*"Olivia Ray was a dignified Alisa..."*

(Planet Hugill)

*"I very much enjoyed Olivia Ray's very detailed and sympathetic Alisa."*

(Opera Britannia / Sebastian Petit)

**Rosina / Barber of Seville / Stanley Hall Opera / 2010**  
**Cond. John Andrews / Dir. Natascha Metherell**

*"an outstandingly well sung account of the role. She even made the first great test for any would-be Rosina - Una voce poco fa in Act One - sound straightforward."*

(MusicalCriticism / Mike Reynolds)

**Mrs. Fox / The Fantastic Mr Fox / Opera Holland Park / 2010**  
**Cond. Tim Murray / Dir. Stephen Barlow**

*"Olivia Ray stands out for the sweetness of her voice and the sensitivity of her portrayal of Mrs Fox."*

(WhatsOnStage / Sam Smith)

**Title role / La Périchole / Opera South / 2010**  
**Cond. Tom Higgins / Dir. Ian Gledhill**

*"Olivia Ray as La Périchole was superb. She has a crystal clear, bright mezzo-soprano voice and an innate sense of rhythm which, combined with excellent acting skills, made her a captivating player."*

(The Herald / Ann Pinhey)