

Kimberley Myers, Soprano

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Kimberley's career began with an emphasis on Czech and Russian roles, having gained the attention of Sir Charles Mackerras in the roles of *Jenufa* and *Kát'a Kabanová*. She has always been a supporter and promoter of new music having been involved with 6 world premieres including being conducted by James Macmillan at Welsh National Opera in the world premiere run of his opera, *The Sacrifice*, in the lead role of Sian. In the past few seasons, in addition to several Verdi Requiems, she has moved into the Wagnerian Repertoire and has performed all 3 *Brünnhildes* and *Isolde* with orchestras and onstage.

Career highlights include being involved in Welsh National Opera's *Die Meistersinger* with Bryn Terfel as Hans Sachs at the Welsh Millennium Centre and at The Proms in The Royal Albert Hall. She has sung the role of *Gerhilde* several times including Longborough Festival Opera's most recent Ring Cycle in which she also covered *Brünnhilde*. She has also sung this role opposite the great John Tomlinson at the St. Endellion Summer Festival conducted by Martyn Brabbins. Other Wagner roles performed include *Brünnhilde*, *Isolde*, *Sieglinde*, *Freia*, *Gutrune*, *Helmwige*, *Ortlinde*, *Siegrune*, *Eva*, *Dritte Norn*, *First Flower Maiden* and *Woglinde* in The Ring Cycle. She has been a guest artist at Welsh National Opera on several occasions with roles covered including *Kát'a Kabanová*, *Jenufa*, *Eva*, *Mariya* in *Mazeppa*, *Marie* in *Wozzeck*, *Anna* in *Die Sieben Todsünden* and for the Max Department *Madama Butterfly*, *Tatyana* in *Eugene Onegin*, and *Susannah* and *Emma* in *Khovanshchina*. She has also performed with Scottish Opera covering and performing the role of *Woglinde* in their Ring Cycle at The Edinburgh International Festival and then returning for *Così fan tutte*. Performed roles with other companies include *Santuzza* at the St. Endellion Easter Festival, *Miss Jessel* at the Britten Festival, at the Snape Maltings, at the Cambridge Britten Festival and with Opera Project, *Mařenka* (New Youth Opera), *Nedda* (Richmond Theatre), *Countess* in *Figaro's Wedding* (Cambridge) and for the R.A.M. Opera Program *Mrs. Coyle* in *Owen Wingrave*, *Gertrude* in *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Maturina* in *Gazzaniga's Don Giovanni*.

World premieres have included creating the role of *Mother Virtue* in *The Songbook of Unsingable Songs* by Stephen Deazley, for orchestra and 250 voice children's choir in the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow and the Usher Hall, Edinburgh; she developed the role of *Bronwen* in *Carbon 12*, with the composer, Errollyn Wallen, and covered the world premiere and the following performances. Kimberley shared the role of *Sian*, in the world premiere run of *The Sacrifice* by James Macmillan, created the role of *Božena* in the English translation of Dvorák's opera, *Vanda*, at the Bloomsbury Theatre and performed the world premiere of Antonín Tucapsky's song cycle, *The Veil of Night* in the Linbury Theatre at the Royal Opera House sponsored by the Emmy Destinn Foundation. Most recently she performed the role of *Anne* in the world premiere run of WNO Max's *Nine Stories High*.

Kimberley has always been active in oratorio and on the concert platform giving concerts at the Smetana Hall in Prague (solo recital), St. John's Smith Square (Russian song with Malcolm Martineau and Czech song for the Emmy Destinn Foundation), many performances at The Snape Maltings including with the ConTempo String Quartet (Respighi's *Il Tramonto*), Schubert song with Paul Kildea, and the soprano solo in Mahler's 2nd Symphony. She has performed the soprano solo in the Verdi Requiem several times including in the Usher hall, Chelmsford Cathedral, The Hutton and Shenfield Choral Society, the soprano solo in *The Bells* with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, *A Child of our time* with the Cambridge Philharmonic with Royal Opera House soloists Yvonne Howard, Christopher Lemmings and Nicholas Garrett in *Ely Cathedral* (also Milton Keynes, London and Toronto), soprano solo in Beethoven's 9th Symphony at Canford, Elgar's *For the Fallen*, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* (Oxford), Faure and Mozart Requiems (Wells Cathedral), Poulenc's *Gloria* and, most recently, Gounod's *Messe Solennelle*.

Kimberley graduated from The Royal Academy of Music with the Dip RAM. Prizes include the Russian Song Prize, the Anglo-Czechoslovak Trust Vocal Competition, and The Emmy Destinn award in addition to many awards as a student at the RAM. She was awarded the second highest recital result in her graduating year at The Royal Academy of Music. She was a finalist in the Bayreuth Bursary, the inaugural Ralph Wells Award and The Queen Sonja International Singing Competition.

Kimberley is the founder of B.O.P., a recital series for the uninitiated but curious, introducing opera to a new audience. This work follows on from her experiences on Yehudi Menuhin's Live Music Now! Series and her previous life running the Education Department at a well known professional Orchestra.

Kimberley has recently been supported by The Wagner Society preparing the role of *Brünnhilde* in The Ring Cycle under the tutelage of the great Dame Anne Evans.