



# ELIZABETH LLEWELLYN

## Soprano



Known for her vivid portrayals of Puccini heroines and for her full, distinctive voice, London-born soprano Elizabeth Llewellyn has quickly risen through the ranks since making her debut as Mimi *La bohème* at English National Opera, establishing herself internationally as an artist of distinction. She has been praised for her “rich, opulent voice” (The Times) as well as for her “beautiful depth of expression and emotional intelligence” (Telegraph). Elizabeth studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio, supported by the Peter Moores Foundation. Elizabeth was awarded an MBE in The Queen’s Birthday Honours 2022, marking her extraordinary contributions and services to music across the UK.

Elizabeth begins her 21-22 season with a return to the Wigmore Hall for a recital alongside pianist Simon Lepper, with a programme featuring Finzi, Puccini, Verdi and Walton. Operatic highlights include a return to the Metropolitan Opera to sing Bess in James Robinsons’ production of *Porgy & Bess*, as well as her role and company debut as *Jenůfa* at Welsh National Opera, and as Desdemona *Otello* for Grange Park Opera. Continuing her work exploring the songs of Samuel-Coleridge Taylor, Elizabeth will perform recitals at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Sheffield University and Stapleford Granary. Further recitals include Balliol College at Oxford University and as part of the Classical Vauxhall series.

In May 2021, Elizabeth released her debut solo album *Heart & Hereafter*. Curated and recorded in collaboration with renowned pianist Simon Lepper and Orchid Classics, the album is a collection of songs by British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, many of which have never been recorded before. Prior to the release, Elizabeth performed songs from the disc in recitals at Snape Maltings in Aldeburgh and for her Wigmore Hall debut, broadcast online and on BBC Radio 3 live in-concert. Upon release *Heart & Hereafter* reached the Top 5 on the iTunes classical album charts and was named “Album of the Week” in the Sunday Times.

In 2018 Elizabeth made her US debut with Seattle Opera as Bess in Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess*, a role that she went to sing in her house debut at the Metropolitan Opera last season. In more recent years, Elizabeth has established herself as a notable lyric spinto soprano, singing the title roles in Verdi’s *Luisa Miller* for English National Opera, *Aida* at the Theater Bielefeld, *Manon Lescaut* with Opera Holland Park, as well as Puccini’s *Tosca* and the role of Elsa in Wagner’s *Lohengrin*, both at the Theater Magdeburg, Germany. Elizabeth was also nominated for “Singer of the Year 2013” in *OpernWelt* magazine for her portrayal of Amelia Grimaldi in *Simon Boccanera*; a role she later performed with Sir Mark Elder and the Hallé Orchestra. Elizabeth also sang the title role of Suor Angelica and Giorgetta *Il Tabarro* for the Royal Danish Opera, and returned there to make her acclaimed debut in the title role of *Madama Butterfly*.

Elizabeth’s recent notable debuts have included her company debut with Scottish Opera, singing Mimì in a socially distanced outdoor production of *La Bohème* - one of the first operas to be staged in the UK following the Covid-19 crisis, and later a return to Scottish Opera to make her debut as Alice Ford in a new co-production of *Falstaff* by Sir David McVicar, both in Glasgow and at the Edinburgh International Festival. On the concert platform recent highlights include performing Mozart *Requiem* at the London Coliseum for English National Opera’s first public performance since lockdown, which was broadcast live to audiences on BBC 2, reaching 513k viewers that evening alone.

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Further roles include Margherita/Elena in Boito's *Mefistofele* with Chelsea Opera Group. Magda de Civry *La Rondine* (Opera Holland Park); Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte* (Theater Magdeburg; Opera Holland Park), Contessa *Le Nozze di Figaro* (ENO; Opera Holland Park); Governess *The Turn of the Screw* (Arcola Theatre); Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni* (Theater Magdeburg; Bergen National Opera); Bess *Porgy and Bess* (Royal Danish Opera); title role in *The Merry Widow* (Cape Town Opera) and the title role in *The Iris Murder* (Hebrides Ensemble).

Elizabeth's concert appearances have also included the world premiere of James MacMillan's *When Soft Voices Die* at the first night of the BBC Proms 2021, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Richard Farnes, a Rosenblatt Recital, Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* with Esa-Pekka Salonen, Verdi *Requiem*, Britten *War Requiem*, Tippett *A Child of Our Time* with Ryan Wigglesworth, a Gala Concert with Joseph Calleja recorded for Classic FM, and a live performance of Strauss *Vier Letzte Lieder* on BBC Radio 3 with Donald Runnicles/BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Elizabeth has also recorded Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony* with BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the role of Eigen in Elgar's *Caractacus* for Hyperion, both under the baton of Martyn Brabbins.

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