



Lisa J Coates

Mezzo soprano/Theatre Maker

A versatile singer described as beautifully engaging with an innate sense of the stage, Yorkshire-born mezzo-soprano Lisa J Coates enjoys a diverse repertoire with particular emphasis on opera, and 20th - 21st Century art song, frequently collaborating with composers on new works. She has performed throughout the UK, USA, China, and Europe, recorded commercially and appeared on television and radio. She is also an emerging writer and stage director.

Now based in Yorkshire, recent highlights include solo/ensemble recording for Stef Conner's *Riddle Songs*, with Delphian Records "beautifully dissonant choral harmonies...an appealingly imaginative listening experience." (Gramophone, March 2021) which was Editor's Choice (Nov 2020), and Recording of the Year 2020 Finalist for Presto who described it as a 'mesmerising album'. She directed Mahogany Opera's *A Year of Snappy Opera Festival* (2021-22), delivering a series of operas written especially for children, and a programme of recital and concert work. In the second half of 2022 she joins dementia charity Lost Chord, with collaborator Graziana Presicce (piano) and is an associate on the Inter_Change artist development programme, with Absolutely Cultured (2022-23).

Opera roles include Flora, *La Traviata*; Mercedes, *Carmen*; Lola, *Cavalleria Rusticana*; Public Opinion, *Orpheus in the Underworld*; Hänsel *Hänsel und Gretel*, Nerone *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, Dido and the Sorceress *Dido and Aeneas*, Olga *Eugene Onegin*, la maestra delle Novizie and la suora infermiera *Suor Angelica*, Lapak and Fox Cubs *Cunning Little Vixen*, Cherubino *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Andronico *Tamerlano*, and Prince Orlofsky *Die Fledermaus*. In contemporary opera she created the roles of The Woman "*Your Call....*", (2013-2017), Hera *Hera's List* (Eve Harrison 2011-12), Elizabeth Ayres *Banished* (Stephen McNeff - 2016) and Gabriela *Favela* (Louise Kulbicki - 2016) and was the solo voice in *Jimmy* (Anandi Casanova – 2017) and *Tell One, Forget One* (Kevin Jones, arr. Desmond Clarke – 2017). She has also appeared as a soloist in Handel *Messiah*, Bach *Magnificat*, *Mass in B Minor* and *St John Passion*, Duruflé *Requiem*, Vivaldi *Gloria* and Mozart *Requiem* and *Vesperae solennes de confessore*.

Other commercial recordings include *Alexander Armstrong - A Year of Songs* (East West Records), *The Bee Symphony* (Touch), *Faust* (BBC Naxos), and *New Music from Old York* (Boreas).

An experienced ensemble singer Lisa was for two years a choral scholar at the Old Royal Naval College Chapel under Ralph Allwood MBE. Previously a member of the Northern Sinfonia Chorus having worked with eminent conductors Simon Halsey, Thomas Zehetmair and English operatic Baritone Sir Thomas Allen, and appearing live on BBC Radio 3, Lisa was for four years a member of the 24, a progressive vocal group specialising in new and unusual music with a repertoire spanning over a thousand years. With this group Lisa has participated in three tours of China from 2010-2012 with conductor Zhu Bu Xi and a tour of Germany in 2009, appearing on various recordings with the ensemble and working with composers such as Veljo Tormis, Gavin Bryars, Thomas Simaku and Roger Marsh. Ensembles she has collaborated with include the Chimera Ensemble, Juice, Blackhair, members of Red Byrd and Electric Pheonix, the Eboracum Quartet and the Serbian Arts council, Timeline Songs and the Rudolfus Choir.

Lisa graduated with a PG Artist Diploma (Distinction) from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, kindly funded by the Linda Pilgrim Charitable Trust and the Morag Noble Scholarship, the Trinity Laban Hardship Fund and the Henry Woods Accommodation Fund, Lisa also holds music degrees from the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne (BMus Hons) and the University of York (MA Vocal Performance).

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