Brenda Rae

Soprano

With her “highest vocal brilliance and sparkling coloratura” (*Bachtrack* 2023) Brenda Rae continues to triumph on the world’s leading stages in an eclectic portfolio of demanding principal roles.

Recent European highlights include Brenda Rae’s return to the Bayerische Staatsoper as the title role in Claus Guth’s new production of *Semele* conducted by Gianluca Capuano and her performance as Maïma (*Barkouf*) in Max Hopp’s production at Opernhaus Zürich under Jérémie Rhorer, which she will reprise in December 2023. In Paris, Brenda returned to the Opéra Bastille for two productions, as *Lucia di Lammermoor* under Aziz Shokhakimov and Ophelia (*Hamlet*) conducted by Thomas Hengelbrock. She continued her reign as the Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*) at the Wiener Staatsoper under Betrand de Billy and returned there as Norina (*Don Pasquale*) conducted by Francesco Lanzillotta. This season, Brenda Rae returns to the Bayerische Staatsoper as Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*) under Ivor Bolton, and then brings her acclaimed Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) to Hong Kong, on tour with Bayerische Staatsoper.

As a former member of the ensemble of Oper Frankfurt, Brenda Rae amassed an impressive repertoire including Elvira (*I puritani*), Violetta (*La traviata*), *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Amina (*La sonnambula*), Zdenka (*Arabella*), Gilda (*Rigoletto*), and Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) which has since become one of her most celebrated roles, leading to house debuts at Staatsoper Berlin, Hamburg and Munich. Elsewhere, Rae debuted in William Kentridge’s production at English National Opera as Lulu in Berg’s eponymous opera, Opéra national de Paris as Anne Trulove (*The Rake’s Progress*), and Glyndebourne Festival as Armida (*Rinaldo*), which was part of the BBC Proms and was released on DVD by Opus Arte. More recent seasons have brought debuts for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Salzburg Festival, respectively, as the Queen of the Night, as well as her critically acclaimed return to Teatro Real Madrid as the title role in Christopher Alden’s new production of *Partenope* under Ivor Bolton.

Brenda Rae made her US operatic stage debut at the 2013 Santa Fe Opera Festival as Violetta and has since returned as Norina (*Don Pasquale*), both Mme Vladimirescu and Mme Herz (*The Impresario*), Cunegonde (*Candide*) and Lucia. Brenda’s continued collaboration with Harry Bicket has brought her house debut at Lyric Opera of Chicago as Ginevra (*Ariodante*), and performances as Handel’s *Semele* on tour with The English Concert to London, Paris and New York. At the Metropolitan Opera, Brenda returned as both Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) conducted by Marek Janowski and Ophelia (Brett Dean’s *Hamlet*) under Nicholas Carter, which received unanimous praise from the international press.

An experienced recitalist, Brenda is a regular guest at the celebrated Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg and at Wigmore Hall in London where she returned recently with a programme of Schubert and Strauss accompanied by Jonathan Ware. Brenda Rae appears on several recordings including Wagner’s *Die Feen* and *Ariadne auf Naxos* (both on Oehms Classics), Milhaud’s *The Oresteia of Aeschylus* (Naxos, nominated for a Grammy award), Lowell Liebermann’s *Little Heaven* (Albany Records) and Offenbach’s *Fantasio* released by Opera Rara.