

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Leah-Marian Jones

Mezzo Soprano

Artist Manager: Sioned Jones
sioned.jones@harlequin-agency.co.uk



Leah-Marian Jones was born in Cilgerran, West Wales and is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio, London.

She was a Company Principal at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden for eight years where she sang over thirty roles including **Tisbe** in *La Cenerentola*, **Dorabella** in *Così fan tutte*, **Maddalena** in *Rigoletto*, **Mercedes** in *Carmen*, **Annina** in *Der Rosenkavalier*, **Flosshilde** in *Das Rheingold* and *Götterdämmerung*.

As a freelance singer Leah-Marian has sung for English National Opera the **Title Role** in *Carmen*, **Maddalena** in *Rigoletto*, **Orestes** in *La Belle Helene*, **Sonyetka** in *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk*, **Rosswaisse** in *Valkyrie* and **Hippolyta** in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Her roles for Scottish Opera include **Meg** in *Falstaff*, **Dorabella** in *Così fan tutte*, **Hansel** in *Hänsel Und Gretel*, **Annina** in *Der Rosenkavalier*, **Page** in *Salome*, **Bersi** in *Andrea Chenier* and **Rosswaisse**, **Flosshilde** and **Norn** in Wagner's *Ring*. For Welsh National Opera she has sung **Sara** in *Roberto Devereux*, **Hedwige** in *Guillaume Tell* and **Amenofi** in *Mosè in Egitto*, **Lola** in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and **Maddalena** in *Rigoletto*. Other roles include **Frederica** in *Luisa Miller* for Chelsea Opera and **Carmen** in Brook/Bizet's *La Tragedie de Carmen* for English Touring Opera. Leah-Marian made her début at Opera North as **Maddalena** and **Giovanna** in *Rigoletto*.

Leah-Marian returned to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden to sing **Zaida** in *Il Turco in Italia* and **Polly Peachum** in *The Beggars Opera*. In the 2011/12 season she added three roles to her operatic repertoire, **Kabanicha** in *Kátya Kabanová* for Welsh National Opera, **Witch** in *Hansel & Gretel* and **Baba the Turk** in *The Rake's Progress* for Scottish Opera.

Leah-Marian made her American début as **Junon** in *Platée* in Berkeley, San Francisco and has sung **The Young Doctor** in *Palestrina* at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York. In Europe she has sung **Flosshilde** in *Götterdämmerung* at the Chatelet, Paris conducted by Jeffrey Tate and **Meg** in *Falstaff* and **Flora** in *La Traviata* for Angers Nantes Opéra and Opéra de Rennes.

Her television appearances and recordings have included hosting her own television series for S4C, appearing as a soloist in the Bryn Terfel series for S4C, *Diva, Diva, Diva* with Lesley Garrett for BBC2, and a recording of Britten's *Paul Bunyan* for Chandos.

Concert engagements at the Royal Albert Hall, London include a Gala Concert with the late Luciano Pavarotti, soloist in a Verdi Programme at the BBC Proms and soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and she was soloist in a televised performance of Karl Jenkins' *Mass for Peace - The Armed Man*, conducted by the composer in celebration of his 60th birthday. She has performed **Rosswaisse** in a concert performance of *Die Walküre* and **Flosshilde** in a concert performance of *Götterdämmerung* with the Hallé Orchestra conducted by Sir Mark Elder at the Manchester International Festival. She has also sung **Rosswaisse** in a concert performance of Act 3 of *Die Walküre* at the Glastonbury Festival and also as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

Recent highlights include **Genevieve** in *Pelléas et Mélisande* for Welsh National Opera and **Jezebaba** in *Rusalka* for Scottish Opera. She also performed the role of **Madame Rivers** in a recording of Bellini's *Adelson e Salvini* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra for Opera Rara and in concert at the Barbican, London and **Flosshilde** in a concert performance of *Das Rheingold* conducted by Sir Mark Elder with the Hallé Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

Future plans include **Hippolyta** in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Aldeburgh Festival and **Kabanicha** in *Katya Kabanova* at the Opéra National de Lorraine in Nancy.

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Gloworks | Heol Porth Teigr | Cardiff | CF10 4GA | +44 (0)29 2075 0821 | harlequin-agency.co.uk