

# ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

## Menna Cazel

Soprano

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Soprano Menna Cazel is from Pontypridd, South Wales and she graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she was taught by John Llewelyn Evans. She subsequently completed her Master's degree in Operatic Studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater 'Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy' in Leipzig, taught by Dr. Jeanette Favaro-Reuter. During 2015/16 and 2016/17 seasons, Menna was a member of the Young Artist Ensemble at the Dresden Semperoper. She has won many prizes including the inaugural 'Voice of the Future' competition at the 2013 Llangollen International Eisteddfod and the W. Towyn Roberts Scholarship at the National Eisteddfod of Wales 2012. She won 2nd prize in the "Ton und Erklärung" des Kulturkreises der Deutschen Wirtschaft competition and has been a semi-finalist in the 37th International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in Latvia, the 51st International Vocal Competition's-Hertogenbosch and the Das Lied Competition.

This season, Menna made her role debut as **Senta** in *Der Fliegende Holländer* at Landesbühnen Sachsen. Other recent engagements include **Erste Dame** in *Die Zauberflöte* and **Marie** in Spoliansky's *Wie Werd Ich Reich und Glückliche* at the Semperoper in Dresden. In 2019, Menna made her house debut for Staatsoper Hamburg as **Frasquita** in *Carmen*. She has performed the roles of **HI. Katharina** in Walter Braunfels's *Szenen aus dem Leben der Heiligen Johanna* and **Iza** in Offenbach's *La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein* for Oper Köln having made her house and role début as **Pousette** in Massenet's *Manon* in 2018 for the company. Other roles in Dresden include **Frasquita** in a new production of *Carmen*, **Die Amme** in *Die Prinzessin auf der Erbse*, **Maddalena** in *Il viaggio a Reims*, **Atala** in Offenbach's *Häuptling Abendung*, **Prinzessin von Carignan** in Friedrich Goldmann's *R. Hot bzw. Die Hitze*, **Ännchen** in *Der Freischütz* and **Slave** in *Salome*. As a Young Ensemble Artist in Dresden, her roles included **Berta** in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, **Papagena** in *Die Zauberflöte* and **Barbarina** in *Le nozze di Figaro*. Menna made her professional operatic début in 2014 as **Erste Blumenmädchen** in *Parsifal* at Oper Leipzig.

Concert highlights include Beethoven 9 Symphony with the Brussels Philharmonic conducted by Stéphane Denève, Mozart Requiem with the Orchestre de Bretagne in Rennes conducted by Grant Llewelyn, a St David's Day Gala with Sir Bryn Terfel and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales conducted by Gareth Jones at St David's Hall, Cardiff and the 'Spirit of Unity' concert at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod conducted by Anthony Gabriele (both concerts televi for S4C). She appeared as a guest soloist again with Sir Bryn Terfel at the Bristol Proms and she also performed a song recital with Eugene Asti at the Pontio Arts Centre in Bangor, North Wales. Menna was a guest soloist with Sir Bryn Terfel for his Christmas television programme for S4C in 2013.

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