

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.

Menna was recently a semi-finalist in 51st International Vocal Competition 's-Hertogenbosch and also in the Das Lied Competition 2015. She also won 2nd prize in the "Ton und Erklärung" des Kulturkreises der Deutschen Wirtschaft competition in 2014 and was invited to represent the Dresden Semperoper in the *Stella Maris International Vocal Competition*. In 2013, Menna won the inaugural 'Voice of the Future' competition at the 2013 Llangollen International Eisteddfod. She was also the joint recipient of the W. Towyn Roberts Scholarship at the National Eisteddfod of Wales 2012. Other prizes include the Art Song Prize at the 2013 Thelma King Award, first prize at the 2009 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and the Osborne Roberts Memorial Prize at the 2008 National Eisteddfod. Menna is a recipient of awards from the Bryn Terfel Foundation and the Elizabeth Evans Trust.

As a young artist at Dresden Semperoper, Menna has performed numerous comedic roles including **Berta** in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, **Papagena** in *Die Zauberflöte* and **Barbarina** in *Le nozze di Figaro*. Other roles in Dresden include **Prinzessin von Carignan** in Friedrich Goldmann's *R. Hot bzw. Die Hitze*, **Die Amme** in *Die Prinzessin auf der Erbse* by Ernst Toch, **Ännchen** in *Der Freischütz* and **A Slave** in *Salome*. She made her professional operatic debut in 2014 as **Erste Blumenmädchen** in *Parsifal* at Oper Leipzig and had previously performed the **Title Role** in Lortzing's *Undine* at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Leipzig in 2012.

Concert highlights include 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, the 'Spirit of Unity' concert Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod (both televised for S4C), a St David's day Concert with the Sydney Welsh Choir in Sydney Australia and a performance as a guest soloist again with Sir Bryn Terfel at the Bristol Proms. She has also appeared in concert with the Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir and the Melbourne Welsh Choir in Australia and she frequently performs as a guest soloist with choirs across Wales such as the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and the Pontypridd Male Choir. Menna was a guest soloist with Sir Bryn Terfel for his Christmas television programme for S4C in 2013.

Menna's recent engagements include **Frasquita** in a new production of *Carmen* and her role début as **Erste Dame** in *Die Zauberflöte* and a song recital (Semper Soiree) for Dresden Semperoper. Forthcoming plans include Fauré Requiem with the Cardiff Philharmonic Choir, a recital with Eugene Asti at the Pontio Arts Centre in Bangor, North Wales and further performances as **Barbarina** in Dresden.

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