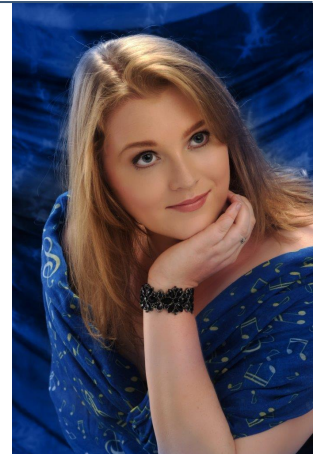


# ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

## 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.

Last season, Menna made her house and role début as **Pousette** in Massenet's *Manon* with Oper Köln. Other recent engagements include her role debuts as both **Pamina** and **Erste Dame** in *Die Zauberflöte* and **Frasquita** in a new production of *Carmen* at the Dresden Semperoper. As a Young Artist at the Semperoper, she 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 début 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. Forthcoming plans include **Die Amme** in *Die Prinzessin auf der Erbse* at the Dresden Semperoper.

Recent concert performances include Fauré *Requiem* with the Cardiff Philharmonic Choir and a song recital with Eugene Asti at the Pontio Arts Centre in Bangor, North Wales. Other 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 at the 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 frequently performs as a guest soloist with choirs across Wales. Menna was a guest soloist with Sir Bryn Terfel for his Christmas television programme for S4C in 2013.

Menna was recently a semi-finalist in the 37<sup>th</sup> International Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competition in Latvia 2018, the 51<sup>st</sup> International Vocal Competition's-Hertogenbosch 2017 and also in the Das Lied Competition 2015. She also won second 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 Musical Eisteddfod. She was also the joint recipient of the W. *Towyn Roberts Scholarship* at the 2012 National Eisteddfod of Wales. 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 Blue Riband Scholarship at the 2008 National Eisteddfod of Wales. Menna is a recipient of awards from the Bryn Terfel Foundation and the Elizabeth Evans Trust.

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