

PRESS RELEASE

6 March 2019

Soprano Elizabeth Llewellyn sings title role in new production of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, opening Investec Opera Holland Park 2019

Tuesday 4, Friday 7, Tuesday 11, Thursday 13, Saturday 15, Tuesday 18, Thursday 20 & Saturday 22 June, 7:30pm

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Lyrico-spinto soprano **Elizabeth Llewellyn** opens the **Opera Holland Park** season once again this year. She performs the title role in a new production by **Karolina Sofulak** of Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*. It opens on **Tuesday 4 June** for 8 performances with a cast including: **Paul Carey Jones** as Lescaut; **Peter Auty** as Des Grieux, **Stephen Richardson** as Geronte di Ravoire; **Stephen Aviss** as Edmondo (**John Wood** on 18 June); **Ellie Edmonds** as Musician; **John Wood** as Dancing Master (**Michael Bradley** on 18 June); **Alistair Sutherland** as the Innkeeper and Sergeant of the Royal Archers; with the **City of London Sinfonia** and **Opera Holland Park Chorus** under the baton of **Peter Robinson** and designed by **George Leigh**.

Manon Lescaut will be Llewellyn's seventh Puccini role in nine years. Following her operatic debut at English National Opera in 2010, she was named 'best newcomer in opera' by The Telegraph and has since established herself on the international stage. She makes her debut at The Metropolitan Opera, New York as Bess in its co-production of Porgy & Bess on **Sunday 13 October**, having performed principal roles at Seattle Opera, Royal Danish Opera, Bergen National Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Theater Magdeburg, and Opera Holland Park.

London-born Llewellyn studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio, supported by the Peter Moores Foundation. After completing the ENO Opera Works training programme, she created the role of Ludovina in the premiere of Glyndebourne Festival's new opera *The Yellow Sofa*.

She made her operatic debut as Mimì in Jonathan Miller's production of *La Bohème* at English National Opera in London (which led to her being named as "Best newcomer in opera in 2010" by The Telegraph). The following year, she caused a sensation when she returned to the ENO when she jumped-in on opening night as the Countess in their new production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, directed by Fiona Shaw, a role which earned her uniformly glowing reviews.

Llewellyn has established herself as a notable lyrico spinto soprano, singing the title role in Puccini's *Tosca*, and the role of Elsa in Wagner's *Lohengrin* for Theater Magdeburg, Germany. She was also nominated for "Singer of the Year 2013" in *OpernWelt* magazine for her portrayal of Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra* (for which she stepped in to sing the role again with Sir Mark Elder/Hallé Orchestra). She sang the title role in Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and Giorgetta in *Il Tabarro* for the Royal Danish Opera, and recently returned there to make her acclaimed debut in the title role of *Madama Butterfly*.

Other roles include Magda de Civry *La Rondine* (Opera Holland Park); Fiordiligi *Così fan tutte* (Theater Magdeburg; Opera Holland Park), Contessa *Le Nozze di Figaro* (ENO; Opera Holland Park); Governess *The Turn of the Screw* (Arcola Theatre); Donna Elvira *Don Giovanni* (Theater Magdeburg; Bergen National Opera); Bess *Porgy and Bess* (Royal Danish Opera; Seattle Opera); title role in *The Merry Widow* (Cape Town Opera); title role in *The Iris Murder* (Hebrides Ensemble).

As well as a successful Rosenblatt Recital, her concert appearances have included a Gala Concert with Joseph Calleja recorded for Classic FM, Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* with Esa-Pekka Salonen, Verdi's *Requiem*, Britten's *War Requiem*, Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* with Ryan Wigglesworth, and a live performance of Strauss' *Vier Letzte Lieder* on BBC Radio 3 with Donald Runnicles/BBCSSO. Recently, she has recorded Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony* with BBCSO, and the role of Eigen in Elgar's *Caractacus* for Hyperion, both under the baton of Martyn Brabbins.

Llewellyn won the inaugural Voice of Black Opera Competition / Sir Willard White Award in 2009, and she was the opera nominee for the prestigious Breakthrough Award at the 2013 Times/Sky Arts Southbank Awards.

Tickets: £20-£88 through the Opera Holland Park Box Office 0300 999 1000 or <http://www.operahollandpark.com/>

Cast & Creative Team

Peter Robinson Conductor

George Leigh Designer

Tim Claydon Choreographer

Karolina Sofulak Director

Rory Beaton Lighting Designer

Elizabeth Llewellyn Manon Lescaut

Peter Auty Des Grieux

Stephen Aviss Edmondo

Ellie Edmonds Musicians

Michael Bradley Dancing Master (18 June only)

Paul Carey Jones Lescaut

Stephen Richardson Geronte di Ravoir

John Wood Edmondo (18 June only)

John Wood Dancing Master

Alistair Sutherland Innkeeper & Sergeant of the Royal Archer

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