



# CLAIRE BARNETT-JONES

## Mezzo-Soprano



British mezzo-soprano Claire Barnett-Jones is fast becoming one of the most sought-after voices on the operatic stage and the concert platform, recently being named one of Operawire's Top 10 Rising Stars after being a Finalist and Winner of the Dame Joan Sutherland Audience Prize at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2021. In recent years, highlights have included her company debut at the Bayreuther Festspiele as 2<sup>nd</sup> Norn *Götterdämmerung* and Waltraute *Die Walküre*, her French operatic debut as Jezibaba in a new Stefano Poda production of *Rusalka* at the Théâtre du Capitole, role and company debuts as Fricka *Die Walküre* at the Tiroler Festspiele Erl in Austria and as Madame Flora *The Medium* for Oper Frankfurt, and her European concert debut at The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam in Schumann's *Szenen aus Goethe's Faust*, conducted by Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

In the 2023-24 season, Claire makes her company debut with Dutch National Opera singing the role of The Government in the world premiere of newly commissioned opera *The Shell Trial*, returns to Frankfurt as Mescalina *Le Grand Macabre* conducted by Oper Frankfurt's incoming General Music Director, Thomas Guggeis, and joins Scottish Opera as Gaea in concert performances of Strauss' *Daphne*. Claire can also be heard with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Orchestra in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, as 2<sup>nd</sup> Norn *Götterdämmerung* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Jurowski, at New Paths Music Festival in Elgar's *Sea Pictures* and with the London Symphony Orchestra in a concert performance of *Jenůfa* at the Barbican Hall conducted by Sir Simon Rattle. Further forthcoming engagements include house debuts at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Bregenz Festival and the Bayerische Staatsoper.

In 2017, Claire was presented with the Wessex Glyndebourne Association Award for a young singer of much promise, and in 2018 made her Glyndebourne Festival Debut as 2nd Noble Orphan in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and performed Annina *La Traviata* for Glyndebourne Touring Opera later that year. She subsequently made her company debut with English National Opera as Eurydice Myth/Persephone in Birtwistle's *The Mask of Orpheus*, and was awarded the Lilian Baylis Award for Outstanding Potential in the Field of Opera in recognition of her exceptional stage debut. Claire was a member of the English National Opera Harewood Artist Programme from 2020-2022.

Further highlights include Sosostriis in Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under the Baton of Edward Gardner at the Royal Festival Hall, the role of Dryad in concert performances of *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Edinburgh International Festival, her BBC Proms debut with a solo recital as part of the Proms at Birmingham 2022, a return to English National Opera to join the cast of their Platinum Jubilee concert performance of Britten's *Gloriana* and her debut with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Simon Rattle in a concert performance of *Katya Kabanova*. Claire has also performed 3<sup>rd</sup> Lady *The Magic Flute* for Welsh National Opera, Rosswisse/cover Fricka in *The Valkyrie* at English National Opera; the beginning of a new Ring Cycle at ENO directed by Richard Jones, as well as Lapák

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*Cunning Little Vixen*, also for ENO, creating the role of 'Alto 1' in Stockhausen's *Mittwoch Aus Licht* with Birmingham Opera Company and the BBC Proms, directed by Sir Graham Vick, Gertrude and cover Mother in Charpentier's *Louise* at the Buxton Opera Festival, Fricka and Wellgunde in *Das Rheingold* for Grimeborn Festival, and the role of Maurya *Riders of the Sea* for British Youth Opera, where she was awarded the Basil A. Turner Prize for outstanding performance. Cover roles for English National Opera have included Frederica *Luisa Miller*, Jezibaba *Rusalka* and Suzuki *Madame Butterfly*.

In concert, Claire has performed Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* at St John's Smith Square, Handel's *Messiah* at the Royal Albert Hall, as part of 'Precipice', a series of specially curated concerts for The Grange Festival, *Messiah* and *Verdi Requiem* with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, and has given recitals at Snape Maltings, the Ludlow English Song Festival, the Wigmore Hall with Iain Burnside, Queen's University Belfast, with I Musici Ireland in Wexford, and toured the UK alongside pianist Sholto Kynoch as part of the Oxford Lieder Festival autumn touring season.

Claire was selected to compete in the Final Rounds of Operalia, The World Opera Competition. She was also awarded the Wagner Prize of the Netherlands, the Junior Jury Prize at the 52nd International Vocal Competition s'Hertogenbosch, as well as the 2nd Prize, Villa Medici Recital Prize and Waynflete Singers Concert Prize all at The Grange Festival International Singing Competition. She has also been the recipient of the Elly Ameling Masterclass Prize (Lieder) at the 51st IVC Competition with pianist Somi Kim, the Dame Patricia Routledge English Song Prize, the Birmingham Town Hall/Symphony Hall Recital Prize, and the Mario Lanza Opera Prize.

Claire studied at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Royal Academy Opera and Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and is a recipient of the Sir John Tomlinson Fellowship, Independent Opera Fellow and Samling Artist. Her studies were sponsored by the D'Oyly Carte Memorial Fund Scholarship, The George Drexler Foundation, The May Gibson Charitable Trust, The Josephine Baker Trust, The Countess of Munster Trust, The Winship Foundation, Sir Ian Fleming Award from Help Musicians and The William Gibbs Foundation.

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