



## AILEEN ITANI

The dynamic Irish/American former soprano Aileen Itani received the Danish Music Reviewers' Annual Prize in August 2009 at a concert, broadcast live on Danish television, featuring Tchaikovsky's "Letter Scene" from EUGENE ONEGIN and Samuel Barber's KNOXVILLE, SUMMER OF 1915. She is a frequent guest artist at the Royal Danish Opera, where she has been heard as the Female Chorus under Britten specialist Stuart Bedford in THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA, Pamina in DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE, and as the Waldvogel in SIEGFRIED as part of the widely praised "Copenhagen Ring" cycle. She returned to the national stage in early 2015 as the female lead in the successful world premiere of Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen's "staged symphony" SOL GÅR OP, SOL GÅR NED.

Her professional breakthrough came in the 2007-08 season with the Danish National Opera as Marguerite in Gounod's FAUST, for which she received glowing reviews at every stop of the tour. She continues her relationship with the Danish National Opera, and has most recently appeared as Varvara in Janacek's KATIA KABANOVA and Garcias in Massenet's DON QUICHOTTE.

In recent years, Aileen Itani has become especially active in the Danish contemporary music scene, and in March 2010 she joined Copenhagen's FIGURA Ensemble for the critically acclaimed world premiere of FIRE VINKLER PÅ MEDEA, an opera co-written by four young Nordic composers.

She has toured Denmark with a new song cycle by Peter Bruun, *SKØNHEDEN HÆNGER PÅ TRÆERNE*. In 2010 Aileen Itani made her Irish debut at the esteemed Kilkenny Arts Festival, being presented both in recital with pianist Rachel Andrist and as soloist in Rossini's *STABAT MATER*. She returned in 2011 as soloist in Mozart's *REQUIEM*, and presented a series of *Liederabend* with distinguished Irish pianist Finghin Collins in Ireland in the autumn of 2012.

She has sung numerous times with the Royal Danish Orchestra, first as an invited guest for their New Year's Gala concert under Music Director Michael Schönwandt, and later as soprano soloist in Gorecki's *SYMPHONY NO. 3* and Szymanowski's *STABAT MATER*, accompanying the world premiere of Tim Rushton's ballet *REQUIEM*. She has also appeared with Maestro Giancarlo Andretta and the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, both in Händel's *MESSIAH* and in Mahler's *SYMPHONY NO. 4*, which received praise from critics.

Ms. Itani was one of the finalists at the 2005 Queen Sonja International Music Competition in Oslo, Norway, and was the recipient of a prestigious career grant from the Léonie Sonning Music Foundation in 2006. She received her training at the Opera Academy of the Royal Danish Theatre and Conservatory in Copenhagen, at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, and at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Aileen Itani has now moved into a deeper repertoire and has become a dramatic mezzo-soprano but she has still the great wide range of beautiful high top notes together with much more power in the middle and lower range.