

JANICE BAIRD - dramatic Soprano

Janice Baird is one of today's leading dramatic sopranos. It is above all with her powerful portrayals of the great Wagner and Strauss heroines that the attractive American has been brought to the eager attention of the international opera scene. An extremely gifted and intelligent singing actress, Miss Baird's combination of vocal prowess and sensitive as well as expressive acting makes her one of the most powerful and intensely expressive performers on the operatic stage today.

She made her sensational USA debut as **ISOLDE** in 2008 at the Metropolitan Opera in New York under the baton of James Levine, a rôle which she also celebrated great triumphs at the Hamburg State Opera, in Rome, Toulouse and at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. She gave her highly praised rôle debuts as the **Dyer's Wife (Färberin)** in Strauss' Die Frau Ohne Schatten (in Toulouse autumn 2006) and as **MARIE** in Wozzeck in Rome (October 2007).

Critically acclaimed as a charismatic singer and actor, Janice Baird enjoyed great successes as **BRÜNNHILDE** in the Opéra de Marseille, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Teatro de la Maestranza Sevilla, at Teatro La Fenice, in Gothenburg, Copenhagen, Düsseldorf, Toulon, Théâtre du Capitôle Toulouse; Teatro Bellini Catania and at the Stuttgart State Opera. She sang **BRÜNNHILDE** in Lorient's RING IN ONE EVENING at the Deutsche Oper Berlin and in Ring cycles in Birmingham and Ireland, and has received numerous nominations for singer of the year from the prestigious opera magazine Opernwelt for her interpretations of **BRÜNNHILDE**.

Among her favorite roles Janice Baird counts **ELEKTRA**, which she sang in Bilbao, at the Semperoper Dresden, Essen, Nantes, Rome, Sevilla, Strasbourg, Toulouse, and the Opera House Zurich.

She made her debut as **SALOME** at the Vienna State Opera and had remarkable successes with this role at the Berlin State Opera, the Hanover State Opera, the Opera Leipzig, at the New National Theatre in Tokyo, at the Teatro Carlo Felice Genua, in Palermo and in June 2007 enjoyed a huge success as **SALOME** at the Salle Pleyel in Paris.

Other roles of her widely spread repertoire are **ARIADNE, ORTRUD, SENTA, VENUS, VIOLANTA, TOSCA, TURANDOT, MINNIE** in La Fanciulla del West as well as the title roles in **FIDELIO, ABIGAILLE** in Nabucco, **AMELIA** in Un Ballo in Maschera and **LADY MACBETH**.

Janice Baird was born on Manhattan's Upper West Side just steps away from Lincoln Center in a musically influenced family. Her mother was a singer and her father a voice teacher. She studied music, flute, singing and also acting at HB Actors Studio in New York City. Miss Baird's first engagements were in Germany where she carefully developed her rich mezzo soprano moving then to soprano repertoire with great success. Through master classes with Birgit NILSSON and intensive private study with Astrid VARNAY with whom she studied all the major Wagner and Strauss roles, she then added the highly dramatic repertoire with which she was able to lay the foundation for her international career.

This took off quickly, and today Janice Baird is a regular guest of most major opera companies around the world, including the State Opera of Berlin, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Bilbao, Birmingham, Buenos Aires, Catania, the Semperoper Dresden, Essen, Geneva, Genua, Hamburg State Opera, Leipzig Opera, Marseille, Nantes, Palermo, Paris, Rome, Santiago de Chile, Seville, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, Toulouse, Trieste, Venice, Verona, at the Vienna State Opera, and in Zurich, to name a few.

Concert performances have brought the soprano to the Glocke in Bremen, to the Tonhalle Düsseldorf, to the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, to Verona, and to Catania among other venues. Her concert repertoire includes "Ah! Perfido" and Symphony No. 9 by Beethoven, Berg's „Sieben frühe Lieder“, „Les Nuits d'Été“ and „La Mort de Cléopâtre“ by Berlioz, Britten's "War Requiem“, Mahler's "Rückert Lieder“ and Symphony No. 2, Ravel's „Schéhérazade“, „Wozzeck Bruchstücke“ and Verdi's „Requiem“ as well as "Wesendonck-Lieder“, "Vier letzte Lieder“ and "Lyrische Sinfonie“ by Zemlinsky.

Janice Baird's next appearances include **Elektra** in Deutsche Oper Berlin, Bruxelles - Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Seattle and the Vienna State Opera and in concerts with Maestro Kent NAGANO and Maestro Donald RUNNICLES; **Turandot** at the Deutsche Oper Berlin and in Athens; **Minnie** in **La Fanciulla del West** in Rom and Seville, **Lady Macbeth** in Bari, **Brünnhilde** in **Die Walküre** in Zurich, **Brünnhilde** in **Siegfried** in Deutsche Oper Berlin and she is the **Brünnhilde** in a new **RING** in **Seattle** (summer 2009). Janice Baird is the **Dyer's Wife** in a new production of die **Frau ohne Schatten** in Zürich - Conductor Welser-Möst & Director David Poutney. As an American who was raised and studied both in Europe and America, Ms. Baird speaks German, English, Italian, French and Spanish and currently lives in Berlin, Germany and in Andalucia, Spain.