

ISABELLE CALS - SOPRANO



Photos : Thierry Cohen

BIOGRAPHY

Soprano Isabelle Cals has sung leading roles in many of Europe's major opera houses and concerts halls, among them l'Opera National de Paris, La Scala, Le Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Le Capitole de Toulouse, La Monnaie de Bruxelles, Les Chorégies d'Orange, Il Teatro Regio di Torino, and l'Opera de Geneve.

Among the conductors with whom she has appeared are Sir Colin Davis, Seiji Ozawa, James Conlon, Michel Plasson, Jesus Lopez-Cobos, John Nelson among others.

Beginning her career as a mezzo soprano she was known for roles such as l'Enfant in L'Enfant et les sortilèges, Stephano in Roméo et Juliette, Siebel in Faust, Sesto in La Clemenza di Tito, and the title role in Carmen. Roles which led her to the soprano repertoire were Giulietta in Les Contes d'Hoffmann in Strasbourg and Graz, Béatrice in Béatrice et Benedict at Le Chatelet in Paris under John Nelson and in Lausanne, Ascanio in Benvenuto Cellini with the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Colin Davis, at the Salzburg Festival under Valery Ghergiev, with the Orchestre de Paris conducted by Christoph Eschenbach and at the Opéra National du Rhin, Marguerite in La Damnation de Faust in Riga, Mélisande in Pelléas et Mélisande in Bordeaux, Caen and Toulon, the title role in Thérèse Raquin by Tobias Picker at Covent Garden, Hélène in La Belle Hélène in Metz.

Recent engagements include Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni) at the Radio France Festival, in Metz and in Maribor, the Governess (The Turn of the Screw) under Dominique Debart, Armide (Lully) in Houston, La Voix humaine conducted by François-Xavier Roth, Micaela at the Hong Kong Opera, Tatiana in Eugene Oneguine at the Opéra de Vichy, Madame Lidoine (Dialogues des Carmélites) at the Opéra de Massy.

Her extensive symphonic performances include La Demoiselle Elue (under James Conlon in Köln), Berlioz' Roméo et Juliette (Le Théâtre des Champs-Élysées under Sir Colin Davis), Les Nuits d'Été (with Jean-François Heisser and with the Orchestre du Capitole), Shéhérazade (under François-Xavier Roth and in Valladolid), La Mort de Cléopâtre (in Poitiers and Angoulême under Jean-François Heisser and Claire Levacher), Beethoven's 9th Symphony at the Opéra de Nice.

She is also heard regularly in recital, recently at the Nagaoka Lyric Hall, the Metz Opera, the Theatre d'Orleans. Her accompanists include Antoine Palloc, Christian Ivaldi, Jean-Marc Bouget and Jean-François Heisser.

Isabelle Cals has recorded the role of la Jalousie Céphale et Procris by Grétry conducted by Guy Van Waas (2009), Ascanio in Benvenuto Cellini live with the LSO conducted by Sir Colin Davis (2007), Marguerite in Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher live at the Radio France Festival (2006), Mercedes in Carmen for EMI (2003) under Michel Plasson, Javotte in Manon live at the Paris Opera under Jesus Lopez-Cobos and Myrtale in Thais for Decca (2000) under Yves Abel.

Upcoming engagements include Alice Ford in Falstaff in Lisbon (Gulbenkian) conducted by Lawrence Foster, at the Opéra de Massy and at the Opéra de Tours, France, the Governess (The Turn of the screw) at the Opéra de Tours, Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni) at the Maribor Opera.

Isabelle Cals began her career at the Centre de formation lyrique of the Opera National de Paris, during which time she represented France at the Cardiff Singer of the World competition.