



Biography

HELEN - JANE HOWELLS
Soprano

Having started her musical career in the jazz world, British soprano **Helen-Jane Howells** trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the Royal College of Music where she was the recipient of a number of prizes and awards including the John Warner Competition, the Russell Sheppard Vocal Scholarship, the Simon Fletcher Award as well as support from the Richard Carne and Josephine Baker Trusts and the Samling Foundation. She was winner of the 2010 Patricia Routledge English Song Competition and continues her studies with Jennifer Smith.

Helen-Jane has sung Eve in Jonathan Kent's production of *The Fairy Queen* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera and at the Opéra Comique and Brooklyn Academy of Music with Les Arts Florissants and William Christie and *Amore L'Incoronazione di Poppea* for Glyndebourne on Tour. Her repertoire includes *Atalanta Xerxes*, *Despina Cosi fan Tutte*, *Gretel Hansel and Gretel*, *Galatea Acis and Galatea*, Lucy Lockett *The Beggars Opera* and *Joanna Sweeney Todd*.

On the concert platform she has performed *Messiah* in Spain with The Gabrieli Consort / Paul McCreesh, Bach Cantatas and *Magnificat* with the Academy of Ancient Music / Richard Egarr plus an Opera Gala with Sir Thomas Allen and Beethoven *Mass in C* at the Worcester Three Choirs Festival. Other engagements have included the St Matthew Passion with The Bach Choir / David Hill (Radio 3 debut); Vivaldi, Pergolesi and Purcell and Handel with Florilegium; the premiere for Carson Cooman's *Revelations of Divine Love* with the London Mozart Players and Schoenberg's *Brettli Lieder* as part of The Philharmonia's *Vienna: City of Dreams* series. A busy recitalist, her programmes encompass early music, English and American song, lieder and mélodies. Recent appearances include recitals with Christopher Glynn at the Ryedale Festival, Purcell songs and duets at the Opera de Dijon and Britten and contemporary works with Huw Watkins at the Presteigne Festival.

Projects for the 11/12 season include a staging by Patrick Kinmonth of the *St Matthew Passion* with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment / Suzi Digby as well as singing the work in the Lausanne Festival with The Gabrieli Consort / McCreesh. She also performs *Amore* in Gluck *Orphée et Euridyce* with the Spanish National Orchestra / McCreesh and the *St John Passion* with the Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra / Nicholas Kraemer. Helen-Jane will contribute to discs of Handel, Vivaldi and Charpentier with La Nuova Musica for Harmonia Mundi USA in the coming seasons.

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