

// MAGALI LÉGER

Soprano

Magali Léger began her lyrical studies with Christiane Eda-Pierre. She was subsequently admitted to the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, where she also worked with Christiane Patard. In 1999, she was unanimously awarded first prize at the institute and applauded by the jury. Thus began a career where not only her vocal qualities were celebrated, but also the ease with which she performed, testament to firm foundations in dance and drama.

In 1999, she was invited to the Opéra de Nantes to play **Philine** in Ambroise Thomas' *Mignon*. The following year, she played **Curly's wife** in the European production of Carlyle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men*. Meanwhile, she also performed for the first time under Marc Minkowski in the **Belle Hélène** at the Théâtre du Chatelet, and **Eurydice** in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, staged by Laurent Pelly at the Opéra de Lyon. Next she sang in William Christite's production of Cesti's *Il Titio* at the Opéra de Rhin, *the Nozze di Figaro* (**Barberine**) at the Aix-en-Provence festival in 2001, and then **Norina** in *Don Pasquale*, again at the Opéra de Lyon, directed by Maurizio Benini, in 2002.

In 2003 she was nominated in the "Revelation" category of the Victoires de la Musique, and would be heard in Schönberg's *Jacob's Ladder*, directed by Eliahu Inbal, accompanied by music played by the Philharmonic Orchestra of Radio France.

Magali Léger is equally successful in her engagement with the baroque repertory, working with, amongst others, Emmanuelle Haim and the Concert d'Astrée at the Lincoln Centre in New York, as she is with contemporary creation; her role as **Glaucée**, for instance, in Raoul Ruiz's production of Michèle Reverdy's *Médée*, or Laurent Petitgirard's *Elephant Man*, staged by Daniel Mesguich.

Stunning collaborations with prestigious heads of orchestras and directors would follow, occurring as much at the heart of festivals as on French or international stages.

Hence she played **Blondchen** in *L'Enlèvement au Sérail*, staged by Jerome Deschamps and Macha Makeieff, and directed by Marc Minkowski, at the festival at Aix-en-Provence, at Baden-Baden, at the Opéra de Rouen, and at the Grand Théâtre du Luxembourg; **Coraline** in *Adam's Le Toréador* at the Opéra Comique in Paris; **Sophie** in *Werther* at the Teatro Comunale de Bologne, **Adina** in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*; **Minka** in *Le Roi Malgré Lui* by Chabrier, directed by Evelino Pido and staged by Laurent Pelly at the Opéra de Lyon; **Ilia** in Mozart's *Idomeneo* at the festival in Beaune, directed by Jérémie Rohrer; and **Nadia** in *La Veuve Joyeuse*, staged by Macha Makeieff at the Opéra de Lyon. More recently, in Vienna, she sang **Crobyle** in Massenet, directed by Michel Plasson, and played **La Princesse Laoula** in Chabrier's *Etoile* at the Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg.

The last season, the Opéra de Lyon welcomed her once more as **Clara** in George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, staged by José Montalvo and Dominique Hervieu, and directed by William Eddins.

In concert, at the Cité de la Musique, she sings with The English Concert and Kenneth Weiss in March 2008, and with the ensemble Les Palladins in April, directed by Jérôme Corréas. Her first solo recording, of Gabriel Fauré's *Bonne Chanson*, is released at the same time, the fruit of a collaboration with pianist Michael Levinas.

This season, she performs the role of **Leïla** in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* by Bizet, than **Thérèse** from *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* by Poulenc at the Feldkirch Festival, Austria. Next season, she will be **Léonore** in *L'amant Jaloux* by Gretry at the Opéra Royal de Versailles and at the Opéra Comique of Paris, directed by Jeremie Rohrer. At the Capitole de Toulouse, she will sing **Gabrielle** in *La Vie Parisienne* by Offenbach, staged by Laurent Pelly and directed by Benjamin Levy.

A first disc recorded with her ensemble RosaSolis, dedicated to Haendel's Motets and sonates, has been released since March 2009.