**VALDA WILSON – long biography, English.**

**Valda Wilson** is one of the most versatile, exciting and musically curious sopranos of her generation. She is renowned for her ‘full soprano voice, crystal clear, with an elegant vibrato and sparkling clean intonation in every part of the range’ (*Weser Kurier*, Gerd Klingeberg), and for her ‘subtly nuanced’ [and] ‘utterly convincing acting’ (*Musik In Dresden*, Oliver Geisler).

Most recently, Valda added the role of **Suor Angelica** (Il Trittico) to her already extensive repertoire. ‘So intimate, so moving, yet in the depths of tragedy so beautiful in timbre… Suor Angelica unquestionably crowned the evening’ (Saarbrücker Zeitung).

Last season, Valda reprised the role of **Violetta** (La Traviata) (‘merveilleuse’ – Tania Bracq, Forum Opera), and made role debuts as **Micaela** (Carmen) and **Rosalinde** (Die Fledermaus). Her creation of the title role in Sarah Nemtsov’s new opera *Ophelia* received international attention. ‘An extraordinary performance in terms of acting and singing.’ – Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. For her performances of the Beethoven concert aria **‘Ah! Perfido’** and the **9th Symphony** with John Nelson and the Bremer Philharmoniker, she was celebrated for her ‘endless legato phrases’ (Weser Kurier). Her rendition of the **Wesendonck Lieder** by Wagner with Sebastien Rouland and the Saarländisches Staatstheater was similarly praised: ‘Valda Wilson filled the space with her versatile soprano’ (Saarbrücker Zeitung)

In the 2021-21 and 2021-22 Covid-affected European seasons, Valda debuted to critical acclaim in new productions as **Leonora** (*Il trovatore),* **Alcina** (*Alcina)* and **Josepha Vogelhuber** (Im weissen Rössl) at the Saarlaendisches Staatstheater. As a guest, she sang **Euridice** (Gluck’s *Orfeo ed Eurodice*) at the New National Theatre Tokyo with Masato Suzuki and Lawrence Zazzo, and **Helmwiege** (*Die Walkuere*) at the Royal Danish Opera, Copenhagen. Valda was the featured soloist in concerts with the Emex Ensemble (Philharmonie Essen), Suedwestedeutsche Philharmonie (Konstanz and Darmstadt), Bamberg Symphoniker ensemble and Percussion Under Construction, and performed a Lied recital for the Moderne Galerie, Saarbruecken.

In the 2018-19 and 2019-20 European seasons, Valda debuted to critical acclaim as **Violetta** (*La Traviata*), **Elisabeth de Valois** (*Don Carlos*), **Marschallin** (*Der Rosenkavalier*), **Marguerite** (*Faust*) and **Sylva Varescu** (*The Gypsy Princess*) in new productions and reprised her highly acclaimed **Contessa d’Almaviva** (*Le nozze di Figaro*), **Eliza Doolittle** (*My Fair Lady*) and signature role of **Hanna Glawari** (*Die lustige Witwe*) at the Saarland State Theatre where she has been a fulltime member of the ensemble for three seasons. As a guest, Valda sang **Romilda** (Handel’s *Xerxes*) for the Nuremberg State Theatre and was the featured soloist in concerts with the Bremer Philharmoniker (c. Marko Letonja), New Philharmonic Westfalen (c. Bernhard Forck), Südwestdeutsches Kammerorchester Pforzheim (c. Timo Handschuh), Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg (c. Antonio Grosu, *Mozart Requiem*), Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (c. Marko Letonja, *Fauré Requiem*) and Stuttgarter Philharmoniker (c. Marcus Bosch, *Beethoven 9* and *Strauss Songs*).

In the 2017-18 season, Valda debuted as **Musetta** (*La bohème*), **Eliza Doolittle** (*My Fair Lady*), **Harey** (*Solaris* by Michael Obst) and **Fiordiligi** (*Così fan tutte*) in new productions and sang **First Lady** (*Die Zauberflöte*) at the Saarland State Theatre. As a guest, she performed **Iole** (Handel’s *Hercules*) for the National Theater Mannheim and was the soprano soloist in concerts with Theater Ulm (c. Timo Handschuh), Opernfestspiele Heidenheim (c. Marcus Bosch), Münchner Symphoniker (c. Kevin John Edusei, *Carmina Burana*), Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg (c. Antonio Grosu, *Carmina Burana*) and Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg (c. Marko Letonja, *Beethoven 9*).

Valda Wilson’s previous operatic engagements include Handel’s **Rodelinda** (title role) and **Theodora** (title role, Pinchgut Opera, Sydney), **Iole** (*Hercules*) and **Romilda** (*Xerxes*, Oldenburg) ; Hasse’s **Laodice** (*Il Siroe*, London Handel Festival); Haydn’s **Rosina** (*La vera costanza*, Sydney); Mozart’s **Pamina** (*Die Zauberflöte*, Dresden Semperoper, Salzburg Festival, Oper Klosterneuburg), **Donna Anna** (*Don Giovanni*, Bamberg), **Fiordiligi** (*Così fan tutte*, Verbier Festival), **Contessa d’Almaviva (***Le nozze di Figaro*, Oldenburg); Donizetti’s **Adina** (*L’elisir d’amore*, London); Rossini’s **Rosina** (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Verbier Festival); Boildieu’s **Anna** (*La dame blanche*, Oldenburg); Verdi’s **Alice Ford** (*Falstaff*, Oldenburg), **Inez** (*Il Trovatore*, Semperoper Dresden); Dvorak’s **First Woodsprite** (*Rusalka*, Teatro di San Carlo, Naples); Lehár’s **Hanna Glawari** (*Die lustige Witwe*, Oldenburg); Britten’s **Helena** (*Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Oldenburg), **Rowan** (*The Little Sweep*, Australian Chamber Music Festival); Hartmann’s **Simplicius Simplicissimus** (title role, Semperoper); Glass’s **Mrs Naidoo** (*Satyagraha*, Oldenburg); Srnka’s **Jakub Flügelbunt** (female lead in world premiere, Semperoper Dresden).

Other notable concert engagements include performances with the Royal Flemish Philharmonic and a European tour with the Orchestre des Champs Elysées both under Philippe Herreweghe, Beethoven’s *Fantasy Op.80* under Charles Dutoit at the Verbier Festival, *Carmina Burana* at Salzburg’s Grosses Festspielhaus, Mendelssohn’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Mozart concert arias with the Hallé Orchestra under Markus Stenz, and *Bachianas Brasileiras No.5* with the London Cello Orchestra touring Switzerland and South Korea.

Valda Wilson is a sought-after chamber music collaborator. Her performances include appearances on multiple occasions as part of the Dresden Philharmonic’s chamber music series with programmes of Fauré , Schubert  and composer-in residence, Brett Dean.  Other chamber music collaborations have been with the renowned Auryn Quartet featuring Haydn and Boccherini for the Musiktage Mondsee Festival in Austria, and performing the Reimann arrangements of Schumann *Opus 107* and Mendelssohn …*oder soll es Tod bedeuten?* at the Romanischer Sommer Festival in Köln; multiple appearances as the featured soprano with various international ensembles such as the Orava Quartet, the Goldner Quartet and Ensemble Liaison for the Australian Festival of Chamber Music; recitals with Freies Ensemble Dresden and Ensemble Mediterrain in Berlin; and as the soprano soloist for various Sächsische Staatskapelle Kammerabend recitals in Dresden.

Valda Wilson initially trained at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music before winning Opera Foundation Australia’s scholarship to the National Opera Studio London. She was then invited to join the Junges Ensemble at the venerable Dresden Semperoper for two years and subsequently returned regularly as a guest artist. Valda was a member of the Young Artist Programs at the Salzburg and Verbier Festivals. During the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons, Valda was a fulltime soloist in the ensemble at the Oldenburg State Theatre where she won the audience prize Publikumspreis der Volksbühne Oldenburg which is awarded only once every four years. Since 2017 Valda has been a fulltime soloist in the ensemble at the Saarland State Theatre where she recently received the 2018-19 Sponsors Club Prize.

Valda’s extensive discography includes: Paul Hindemith’s ‘Three Songs’ with the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz and Karl-Heinz Steffens, Franz Schreker’s orchestral songs ‘On Eternal Life’ with the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz and Christopher Ward (Capriccio Records Vienna); the title role in Handel’s **Theodora** recorded live at Pinchgut Opera’s acclaimed 2016 Sydney production conducted by Erin Helyard; Verdi’s *Un Giorno di Regno*  as Giulietta for Opernfestspiele Heidenheim with Marcus Bosch (Coviello Classics); **Rodelinda** on ABC Classics CD recording of *Rodelinda* with Richard Bonynge AC CBE, and in the ABC Classics boxed set *Richard Bonynge – The Opera Collection.* Valda features in Ralf Pleger’s four part TV documentary *Sängerkrieg auf hoher See* about the prestigious Stella Maris International Singing Competition, which she won. She was chosen by Richard Bonynge to be the only featured soloist at the Westminster Abbey memorial service for Dame Joan Sutherland with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, under Sir Antonio Pappano.

For further details, see [*www.ValdaWilson.com.au*](http://www.valdawilson.com.au)