

Allison COOK

Mezzo-soprano

Allison Cook's reputation as one of today's foremost exponents of contemporary and 20th century repertoire has been firmly established through the recent creation of a range of formidable characters.

Last season featured Allison's anticipated role debut as **Salome in Adina Jacobs'** new production for English National Opera, garnering Allison praise for her committed performance and "gleaming tone" (Opera Magazine). Equally, Allison's interpretation of the **Duchess** in Thomas Adès' Powder Her Face has found a special place in her repertoire after tour-de-force performances in New York, Québec, Warsaw and Brussels. Other roles of note include **Marie** in Wozzeck, **Judith** in Bluebeard's Castle, Schoenberg's **Erwartung**, and Kaija Saariaho's **Émilie**.

This season includes Allison's return to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in the first staged performances of Gerald Barry's **Alice's Adventures Under Ground** conducted by Thomas Adès, **Erwartung** with Vlaamse Opera in Krystian Lada's new staging under Alejo Pérez, as well as her return to Teatro alla Scala as the **Marquise de Merteuil** in Luca Francesconi's Quartett. This role in particular has earned Allison unanimous acclaim, from her first performances at La Scala to subsequent appearances at Gran Teatre del Liceu, Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Teatr Wielki, Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires, as well as at Wiener Festwochen, La Cité de la Musique, and the Holland and Strasbourg Festivals. Elsewhere this season Allison sings **Judith** in Bluebeard's Castle at the Enescu Festival under Cristian Mandeal, Saariaho's **Émilie Suite** with Gävle Symphony Orchestra, and **Scheherazade** with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León under Josep Pons.

An artist of phenomenal versatility and vocal range, other recent highlights include the world-premiere of Casablancas' **Enigma De Lea** for Gran Teatre del Liceu, **Miss Jessel** in Kasper Holten's The Turn of the Screw for Teatro alla Scala conducted by Christoph Eschenbach, Judith in Mariusz Trelinski's pivotal production of Bluebeard's Castle for Teatr Wielki, and Allison's debut last season with the Berliner Philharmoniker in The Diary of One Who Disappeared. At the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Cook has appeared in **Wozzeck**, Turnage's **Anna Nicole** and, most recently, in Krzysztof Warlikowski's new production of Janacek's **From the House of the Dead**.