

biography



AMANDA ECHALAZ - SOPRANO

"...the young lady everyone is talking about – Amanda Echalaz. Her *Tosca* at Holland Park wowed even my most hardened colleagues, but this *Tosca* (Royal Opera House) on the very stage Callas once trod was blessed with a temperament and a completeness that was world class. It's rare to find a voice of such true spinto colour, dark and plangent with a stonking top...exceptional talent."

Edward Seckerson, *The Independent*

Echalaz represented South Africa in the Cardiff Singer of the World in 2005 and, in 2008, made her debut at Covent Garden in the world première of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's opera *The Minotaur*, as well as singing the title role of *Tosca* for Opera Holland Park to unanimous critical acclaim: "Amanda Echalaz's *Tosca* was thrillingly sung. Echalaz is now set to be the leading *Tosca* of her generation. With unforced, candid tone, elegant movement and expressive face... every note and nuance is true." Anna Picard, *The Independent*

In the 2009/10 season, Echalaz sang Liù *Turandot* and the title role of *Tosca* at English National Opera, and reprised *Tosca* for the Salzburg Landestheater. She also sang the title role of *Madama Butterfly* for Cape Town Opera and returned to Opera Holland Park to sing Amelia *Un ballo in maschera*. Sensationally, she triumphed at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden when she took over at short notice from an indisposed Angela Gheorghiu in the title role of *Tosca*. The 2010/11 season saw Echalaz make her debut at the Berlin Staatsoper as *Tosca* and make some important role debuts, returning to the Berlin Staatsoper to sing Elisabetta *Don Carlo* and performing the role of Maddalena *Andrea Chénier* at the Bregenz Festival, Austria.

Highlights of the 2011/12 season included Tatyana *Eugene Onegin* in a new production with English National Opera; a role debut in the title role of *Salomé* at La Monnaie, Brussels; and further performances of *Tosca* at the Berlin Staatsoper. Echalaz concluded the season with her US debut as *Tosca* with Santa Fe Opera.

Future seasons will see debuts at the Metropolitan Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Canadian Opera Company, Polish National Opera and l'Opéra national du Rhin, as well as returns to the Royal Opera House and La Monnaie, Brussels. Forthcoming roles include Alice *Falstaff*; the title roles of *Manon Lescaut*, *Tosca*, and *Madama Butterfly*; and Amelia *Un ballo in maschera*.

Echalaz's concert repertoire includes Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony*, the Brahms and Verdi Requiems, Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*, Strauss' *Four Last Songs* and Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*.

Amanda Echalaz is represented by Intermusica.

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