

# Emma Curtis, Contralto



Emma Curtis debuted at the Staatstheater Stuttgart as Nutrice (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*) and then sang numerous roles as a full-time member of the Solo Ensemble Stuttgart, performing with conductors including Sylvain Cambreling, Lothar Zagrosek, Robin Engelen, Jean-Claude Malgoire, Nicholas Kok and Roland Kluttig.

Emma created the leading role of L'Ainée in the world premiere of Jacques Lenot's *J'étais dans ma maison et j'attendais que la pluie vienne* at Opera de Genève, conducted by Daniel Kawka. She created the role of Galatée in the world premiere of *Pastorale* by Gérard Pesson for Staatstheater Stuttgart conducted by Kwamé Ryan. She also sang Eine Kranke and 4.

nackte Jungfrau in Schönberg's *Moses und Aron* for Staatstheater Stuttgart's recording for Naxos. She has appeared in new productions directed by Jossi Wieler & Sergio Morabito, Peter Konwitschny, Hans Neuenfels, Christopher Mattaliano, Christoph Pertou, Bernard Brocca and Catherine Turocy, and in stagings by Joachim Schlömer, Edward Berkley and Axel Mantey.

Emma has performed the title role in Cavalli's *Giasone* for Aspen Music Festival conducted by Harry Bicket, Irene in Handel's *Atalanta* at the International Handel-Festival, Göttingen, conducted by Nicholas McGegan; she has sung both Bertarido and Eduige (Handel's *Rodelinda*) for Portland Opera, USA, and in Santa Barbara, Cleofe in Handel's *La Resurrezione* with Trevor Pinnock and The English Concert, *Les Leçons de Ténèbres* by Marc Antoine Charpentier, plus the world premiere of *Les Leçons de Ténèbres* by Philippe Fénélon, and projects with Les Arts Florissants and William Christie.

Other operatic appearances include Geneviève (*Pelléas et Mélisande*), La principessa (*Suor Angelica*), Third Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), Quickly (*Falstaff*) and Maddelena (*Rigoletto*). Concert appearances include Sibelius's *Jokamies* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Thomas Adès and Janáček's *Diary of One who Disappeared* at the Aldeburgh Festival, *Brahms' Alto Rhapsody* and Elgar's *Sea Pictures* with conductor Kenneth Woods, and Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music* with Leonard Slatkin and the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the First Night of the BBC Proms.

Emma is director of baroque ensemble The Frolick. Their debut recording, *Calliope – volume the first*, was awarded Best Classical Vocal Album by AllMusic. Emma's live recording of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, with conductor Kenneth Woods and the Orchestra of the Swan has been given an "Outstanding IRR" by International Record Review.

Emma has redirected her career to include the exploration of the mind-voice connection, and gained her MSc in Psychology. Recent vocal highlights have included Bantock's *Sappho*, a one woman show called *Of Love and Cake*, for Bloomsbury Opera pairing Lee Hoiby's *Bon Appétit* with Jean Cocteau's dramatic monologue for Edith Piaf, *Le bel différent*; and the roles of Schwertleite in *Walküre*, and First Norn in *Götterdämmerung* for Saffron Opera Group.

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