

BONITA HYMAN

Mezzo-soprano

The mezzo-soprano Bonita Hyman, born in Brooklyn NY, and living in Germany since 1995, has performed as a featured soloist on numerous stages in the United States and Europe, among them the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Dallas Opera, the Opera Orchestra of New York, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Opéra Nationale de Lyon, the Opéra Comique de Paris, Deutsche Oper am Rhein (Düsseldorf), Oper Leipzig, Städtische Bühnen Nürnberg, the Bregenzer Festspiele and the National Reisopera in the Netherlands.

Most recently has she been engaged as the Erste Magd in the acclaimed landmark Patrice Chéreau production of ELEKTRA by the Staatsoper Hunter den Linden in Berlin (2023, 2022, 2019 and 2016), the Teatro alla Scala in Milan (2018 and 2014), the Metropolitan Opera in New York (2016), the Finnish National Opera in Helsinki (2016), the Teatro al Liceu in Barcelona (2016) and the Festival Aix-en-Provence (2013), as well as in the role of Begonia in Henze's DER JUNGE LORD at the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz in Munich (2019) and the Staatsoper Hannover (2017). The Met production of ELEKTRA has also been broadcast around the world as part of its Met HD Live series, as part of the "Great Performances" Series on PBS and is still available online as part of the Met's streaming service.

She has also recently been engaged by the Salzburger Festspiele (2020) as the Erste Magd in a new production of the Richard Strauss opera, ELEKTRA, directed by Krzysztof Warlikowski and conducted by Franz Welser-Möst with the Wiener Philharmonic. This production was performed in the Felsenreitschule and broadcast around the world through the streaming services MEZZO and fidelio (where it can still be seen), as well as in Europe on television via ARTE, 3sat and ORF.

Among her other career highlights are several high profile world premieres. She created the role of the extraterrestrial Negerin in world-premiere production of Detlev Glanert's SOLARIS at the Bregenzer Festspiele (Festspielhaus, 2012); created the role of Tiatin in Robert Wilson production of Tania León's SCOURGE OF HYACINTHS, after the radio play by Nobel Prize Laureate, Wole Soyinka at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, with further performances at the Opéra de Nancy, the FestSpielHaus, St. Pölten, and the Palació de Bellas Artes in Mexico City; created the role of Félicité in Michaël Lévinas' LES NÈGRES, after the Jean Genet play, a co-production of the Nationale Opéra de Lyon and the Grand Théâtre de Genève, Stanislas Nordey directing, Bernhard Kontarsky, conducting (original cast recording on Sisyph/Abeille Musique); and created the role of Frysian high priestess, Eastr, in Henk Alkema's BONIFACIUS, with a multilingual libretto and stage direction by Peter te Nuyl in a four-city Dutch tour, commissioned and co-produced by Rixt Foundation and Harmonie Foundation NL, with Noord Nederlands Orchestra, Hans Leenders conducting.

In addition to her recent concertante performance as Maria in PORGY AND BESS at the Vienna Volksoper (2019) were stage productions with Dallas Opera (02/08), the Opéra Comique in Paris, the International Festival of Music & Dance at the Alhambra in Granada, Spain, Théâtre Caen in Normandy (all in 06/08) and at the Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg (10/08).

Ms. Hyman received her artistic training at Oberlin College - Conservatory of Music (Oberlin, OH, B. Mus. 1974), at Yale University (New Haven, CT, M.Mus. 1981) and in the Opera Studio of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists in Chicago (1986), as well as at the AIMS Program in Graz, Austria (1988). As a vocal pedagogue, Ms. Hyman served on the faculties of DePaul University (1993-1995) and Sherwood Conservatory of Music (1989-1995), both in Chicago. She is currently serving since 2005 at the Municipal Music School in Gießen. She received her training and certification as a Choral Director through the Hessischer Sängerbund e.V. Choral Director School in Marburg, Germany (2011), and is the founder and director of the VHS Chor Kaleidoskop since 2011.

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