



SAMANTHA HANKEY

Praised as “luscious,” “amber-toned,” and “dazzling” by Opera News, American mezzo-soprano Samantha Hankey is quickly establishing a name for herself both at home and abroad. In the 2019/20 season, Samantha joined the ensemble of the Bayerische Staatsoper, where she made her role and house debut as Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel*. She continues her residency in Munich for the

2020-21 season, where she reprises the roles of Wellgunde in *Das Rheingold* and Zweite Dame in *Die Zauberflöte* and makes her role debut as Octavian in their new production of *Der Rosenkavalier*, directed by Barrie Kosky and conducted by Vladimir Jurowski. Other highlights of her upcoming seasons include exciting returns to the Metropolitan Opera, where she will debut the role of Prince Charming in Massenet’s *Cendrillon* among others.

Samantha’s abridged 2019-20 season featured numerous role reprisals with the Bayerische Staatsoper in addition to her house debut with The Dallas Opera in the role of Zweite Dame. In the 2018/19 season, Samantha made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Pantomime in *Mefistofele* and returned to the Met throughout the year in *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *Carmen*, *Das Rheingold*, *Götterdämmerung*, and *Rigoletto*, debuting a myriad of named roles in her first season at the Met. She also travelled to Turku, Finland to renew the title role in Handel’s *Agrippina* in concert with Il Pomo d’Oro, where she was praised by Turun Sanomat for her “marvellously rich mezzo.” Other highlights of Samantha’s recent seasons include major role and house debuts at Opernhaus Zürich, Den Norske Opera Oslo, and the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Samantha’s growing career includes awards in a vast number of national and international competitions. In 2018, she won both First Prize and the Media Prize at the Inaugural Glyndebourne Cup. That same year, she took home multiple prizes at Placido Domingo’s Operalia Competition, winning top awards in the general division as well as the Birgit Nilsson Prize for her interpretation of the work of Richard Strauss. In 2018, Samantha also received a Career Grant from the Richard Tucker Music Foundation, following an earlier 2016 award of a Sara Tucker Study Grant. In 2017, she was named a Grand Finals Winner by the Metropolitan Opera National Council, took First Prize in the Dallas Opera Guild Vocal Competition, and received a Leonore Annenberg Arts Fellowship in that foundation’s final year.

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