

## Website Profile Louise Walsh

*“A soprano of such crystalline freshness that one cannot help but instantly fall in love with her...” ( Opera Magazine)*

With an innate musicality and adaptability, Irish Soprano Louise Walsh has built a strong reputation as one of the most accomplished artists working today.

Her experience covers Opera, Operetta, Oratorio, Lieder , Concert Recitals, Musicals and Celtic Song.

Louise worked for the first time at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in a David Pountney production of ‘Masquerade’ by Carl Nielson.

Louise received acclaim for her many performances as the title role in Janacek’s ‘The Cunning Little Vixen’.

*“The dual role of the Vixen and desirable maiden Terynka was brilliantly played by Dublin Soprano, Louise Walsh” .(Sunday Business Post)*

*Louise Walsh as both the Vixen and Terynka generated spine tingling moments, with a pure unforced voice that sailed over lines such as “Am I beautiful?” (Opera Magazine)*

*Louise Walsh as the Vixen/Terynka was particularly good at creating illusion. Her diction was impeccable and her wooing of the fox was positively erotic”. (The Irish Examiner)*

Her versatility as a performer allows her to excel in many areas. Her success in singing the role of Christine in “The Phantom of the Opera’ in London’s West-End utilized her looks, acting, dancing and singing capabilities to great effect.

Louise is an experienced performer on the concert platform. Not only accomplished as an oratorio singer and soloist in many concert performances such as ‘Classical Spectacular’ at the Royal Albert Hall with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Also, her vivacious personality, natural charm and deep musical intelligence allow her, in her own solo concerts, to carry audiences on a journey from Opera, Operetta and Musicals, both past and present, through Lieder from around the world to Gaelic Song from her own native country.

Born and educated in Dublin, Louise was greatly influenced by her family and environment in the traditions of Celtic and classical music.

She studied piano and dance from an early age and subsequently became a student of singing at the College of Music, Dublin.

Steeped in the traditions of music festivals in Ireland, Louise was a multiple prize winner for singing at numerous 'Feiseanna' throughout the country.

Bursaries won at these festivals, together with further awards from the Irish Arts Council and the Friends of the Vocal Arts in Ireland, were enormously helpful in providing a pathway to the next step.

After the completion of her BSc in Chemistry from Dublin University, Trinity College, Louise gained an entrance scholarship for a place on the Professional Performance Course at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Success at the RNCM led her to star in two operas during her time there.

Susanna in Mozart's 'The Marriage of Figaro';

*"This was very much a worldly portrayal, well sung and radiantly acted and more than a match for her aristocratic employers. It was a joy to hear and watch her dispose so radiantly of the part". (Manchester Evening News)*

La Fee in Massenet's 'Cendrillon';

*"The main plaudits go to Louise Walsh as the Fairy, A scintillating performance". (The Stage)*

*"Louise Walsh's coloratura Fairy Godmother was an accomplished performance-the most French in spirit of them all". (Opera Magazine)*

Awards and prizes were again several at the RNCM;

The Elizabeth Harwood Memorial Scholarship

The Ricordi Prize for Opera

The Gold Medal for the Best Overall Vocalist of the Year in her final year.

Louise gained a place and won further scholarships from The Richard Newitt Fund, The Peter Moores Foundation, Opera North and Friends of Covent Garden to study with the best coaches, conductors and directors in Britain, at the prestigious London Opera Studio.

Immediately following her studies Louise was sponsored by the Irish Television network, RTE, to participate in The Hans Gabor, Belvedere International Singing Competition, Vienna.

Against thousands of applicants from around the world Louise had enormous success;

2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the overall Competition

1<sup>st</sup> Prize from the International Media

Hessischer Rundfunk Prize

Iwate Prize of Japan

From the very beginning of her career, Louise has been singing with some of the best opera houses in the world and working with directors and conductors of the highest calibre.

One of her first professional opera engagements after her outstanding success at the Belvedere competition in Vienna, was for the Stuttgarter Staatstheater, where she sang the role of Sandman and Dewfairy in Humperdinck's 'Hansel and Gretel'.

*"..new production with a real discovery: Louise Walsh, an Irish debutante, as the Sandman and Dewfairy with her truly dewfresh, crystal clear soprano, spreads pure enchantment". (Opern Welt)*

Living and working in Stuttgart while singing at the Staatstheater, has allowed Louise to become proficient in the German language, while previous scholarships, from the Peter Moore's Foundation while studying at the RNCM, allowed Louise to study Italian in Florence and gain proficiency in Italian. Also 6 years study in French gives Louise a good basis in the language for both singing and conversation.

Louise enjoys a career of great diversity. She strives to continue using her talents to the full and embraces the challenges and successes the world of music has to offer.