

# RACHEL SPEIRS – SOPRANO

www.rachelspeirssoprano.com



Scottish Soprano Rachel Speirs is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music where she won the Betty Bannerman Award for French Song 2020 and the Kennedy Strauss Award 2019 adjudicated by Simon Keenlyside. Recent engagements include Mrs Nordstrom at Buxton International Festival, a recital of French Song in the Clonterbrook Music Room, and 10 Musical Postcards with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Rachel has extensive experience in outreach and education, in particular working with people with dementia, and was recently appointed Co-Director of SoundUp Arts CIC. In 2021/22 Rachel will sing Lotty in Retrospect Opera's recording of G.A. MacFarren's opera *The Soldier's Legacy* and sing various projects with the Opera North Chorus, before joining English Touring Opera in Spring 2022, singing in the chorus and as a principal in their opera for audiences with special educational needs.

speirsrachel1@gmail.com | 07850075811 | 30/May/1994

Location: Manchester, UK | Languages: English, German

Royal Northern College of Music MMus/BMus (1<sup>st</sup> Class Hons) 2013-2020  
(Teachers: Sarah Rhodes, Eiddwen Harray, Deborah Rees)  
Grade 8 Violin | Grade 5 Piano | Grade 6 ISTD Ballet, Tap, and Modern Dance

## Roles

Soprano	<i>L&amp;P Production</i>	English Touring Opera	TBA	2022
Lotty	<i>The Soldier's Legacy</i>	Retrospect Opera	Andy King (recording)	2021
Mrs Nordstrom	<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Buxton Opera House	Paul Kerryson/Wyn Davies	2021
Suor Dolcina	<i>Suor Angelica</i>	Random Opera Co.	Richard Jones/Kelvin Lim	2021
Maria Bertram	<i>Mansfield Park</i>	RNCM Opera	Stephen Barlow/Nicholas Kok	2020
Pamina c.	<i>The Magic Flute</i>	Flat Pack Opera	Wendy Silvester/Chris Gill	2019
Papagena	<i>The Magic Flute</i>	Flat Pack Opera	Wendy Silvester/Chris Gill	2019
Voice of a Bird	<i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>	RNCM Opera	Jonathan Cocker/David Parry	2019
Aminta	<i>Il re pastore</i>	RNCM Opera	Garth Bardsley/Mark Edwards	2019
Suor Osmina	<i>Suor Angelica</i>	RNCM Opera	Robert Chevara /Martin André	2018
Zweite Dame	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	RNCM Opera	Garth Bardsley/Mark Edwards	2018

## Professional Ensemble Experience

TBA	English Touring Opera	TBA	2022
<i>Mahler Symphony No. 2</i>	Opera North	Garry Walker	2021
<i>Edmea/Ein Wintermärchen/Le songe d'une nuit d'été</i>	Wexford Festival Opera	Cancelled due to COVID	2020
<i>La Gioconda/The Life and Death of Alexander Litvinenko/La Boheme</i>	Grange Park Opera	Cancelled due to COVID	2020
<i>Carmen</i>	Heritage Opera	Sarah Helsby-Hughes/James Longstaffe	2018
<i>The Rake's Progress</i>	British Youth Opera	Stephen Unwin/Lionel Friend	2018
<i>Don Giovanni</i>	British Youth Opera	James Hurley/Lionel Friend	2017

## Recordings

<i>Trois chansons de la renaissance</i>	John Manduell	Peter Lawson/Divine Art Records	2021
<i>Songs of Innocence</i>	Alwyn arr. Matthews	Victoria String Quartet/Divine Art Records	2021
<i>The Light of Love</i>	Paul Carr	Tredici/Andrew Foan/EM Records	2020

## Competitions/Prizes

Winner - Betty Bannerman Award for French Song 2020, Finalist - Elizabeth Harwood Memorial Prize 2020, Opera North/RNCM Mentorship Scheme 2019-2020, Winner - The Joyce and Michael Kennedy Strauss Award 2019, RNCM Song Cycle Prize - Highly Commended (2019)

## Concert/Oratorio/Recital Highlights

JS Bach	<i>B Minor Mass</i>	Southport Bach Choir	2021
Poulenc	<i>La Dame de Monte Carlo</i>	Clonterbrook Music Room Series	2020
Handel	<i>Messiah (Solos + Choruses)</i>	Christchurch Priory	2020
Schubert	<i>Der Hirt auf dem Felsen</i>	Music on the Moor Recital Series	2019
Gounod	<i>Messe Solennelle</i>	Chorley and District Choral Society	2019
Handel	<i>Messiah</i>	St Gauderic Festival, France	2019
Karl Jenkins	<i>Requiem</i>	Chorley and District Choral Society	2018
J.S. Bach	<i>Christmas Oratorio</i>	Knaresborough Choral Society	2017
Vivaldi	<i>Gloria</i>	Knaresborough Choral Society	2017
Handel	<i>Messiah</i>	West Cumberland Choral Society	2017

## Choral

Northern Film Orchestra Choir; Manchester Cathedral Chorister (Christopher Stokes); BBC Radio 4 Daily Service; Caledonian Voices (Calum Fraser); National Youth Choir of Scotland (Christopher Bell); St Paul's Church Choral Scholar (David Cane)

## Outreach, Community, Education

Co-Director	SoundUp Arts CIC	Co-director of CIC providing creative workshops and resources for people living with dementia and carers	2021
Visiting Artist	Grange Park Primary Robins	Leader for year-group sessions teaching folk songs in Primary schools around Manchester.	2021
Dementia Group Leader	Together Dementia Support	Support worker and group leader for people living with dementia and carers	2021
Digital Artist	Healthy Arts	Performing Artist and writer for digital workshops in '2020 Vision' project	2020
Artist/Co-editor	Royal Scottish National Orchestra	Virtual/recorded project developing/performing 10 'Musical Postcards' for stroke survivors and people with brain injuries	2020
Chorus Manager	Royal Northern College of Music	Administration and management for RNCM Chamber Choir and Opera Chorus	18-20
Workshop Leader	The Sixteen Learning & Participation Department	Workshops representing The Sixteen in collaboration with Streetwise Opera (homelessness charity)	2019
Vocal Tutor	Stagecoach Performing Arts	Group singing tutor for ages 5-18, co-director for musical theatre shows	17-20
Classroom Music Teacher	Manchester City Council	Class music lessons and curriculum teaching Years 1-7 in Roman Catholic Primary School	17-19

**Other relevant information** Full Clean Drivers License, Enhanced DBS Certificate, Alzheimer's UK 'Dementia Friend'

## Referees

Kevin Thraves (Deputy Head of Opera RNCM) [kevin.thraves@rncm.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.thraves@rncm.ac.uk)

Sarah Rhodes (Vocal Tutor) [sarah.rhodes@rncm.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.rhodes@rncm.ac.uk)