



### **Polly Leech** *mezzo-soprano*



Polly Leech is a British mezzo-soprano from Wiltshire. She was awarded a BSc in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at Durham University, before studying for a Masters in Vocal Performance at the Royal College of Music. In 2018, she completed a year as a Young Artist at the National Opera in London; she is currently in her second year as a member of the Dutch National Opera Studio.

Her recent engagements include **Abra** in Vivaldi's *Juditha Triumphans*, **Fidalma** in *Il Matrimonio Segreto* and **Pastuchyna** in *Jenufa* (directed by Katie Mitchell) all at Dutch National Opera, her French debut at the Opéra National de Montpellier as **Hippolyta** in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and, in concert, Elgar's *Sea Pictures* with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales at the Lichfield Festival.

Other roles include **Hänsel** *Hänsel und Gretel* (Pop-Up Opera), **Mrs Noye** *Noye's Fludde* for the Lichfield Festival, **Fekluša** *Kat' à Kabanovà* (Opera Holland Park), **Pitti-Sing** *The Mikado* (Charles Court and **Third Lady** *The Magic Flute* (Charles Court Opera), **Olga** *Eugene Onegin*, **Irene** *Theodora* (RCM) and **Mrs Herring** *Albert Herring* (Samling Academy Opera).

Polly's solo oratorio performances include appearances at major venues including Snape Maltings, Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square, The Sage Gateshead, Durham Cathedral and York Minister, in repertoire including the Bach *St Matthew Passion*, *Elijah* (Mendelssohn), *Messe de minuit pour Noel* (Charpentier), *Mass in D* (Dvorak), Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, *Messiah* (Handel) and the Mozart and Verdi *Requiems*. In recital, Polly has performed Berlioz' *Les Nuits d'été*, Mahler's *Rückert Lieder*, Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben*, Britten's *Cabaret Songs* and *A Charm of Lullabies*, and *Lady Macbeth: A Scena* by Joseph Horowitz.

Most recently she has sung **Tisbe** *La Cenerentola*, and **Romaine Brooks** in the world premiere of Willem Jeth's *Ritratto*, both for Dutch National Opera. Her future plans include **Cherubino** *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Dutch National Opera, a return to the Opéra National de Montpellier for performances of Schumann's *Szene aus Goethes Faust* and the **title role** in Handel's *Ariodante* with La Nuova Musica in London.