

JULIE ROBARD-GENDRE, MEZZO-SOPRANO



French mezzo-soprano Julie Robard-Gendre garnered accolades from public and press alike with her appearances last season as Nefertiti in *Akhnaten* at **Opera de Nice**, Sesto in *La Clemenza di Tito* at **Opera de Nantes/Angers** and at **Opera de Rennes**, and her role debut as Komponist in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at **Opera de Limoges**. **ForumOpera.com**'s Yvan Beuvard reported: "Of particular note in the excellent cast was Julie Robard-Gendre's Sesto. She brings out the complexity, fragility, doubts and heartbreak, as well as the nobility and generosity of this sensitive soul, blinded by his love for Vitellia. Her dark and rich mezzo, exactly right for the role, is admirably deployed. Sesto's psychological development is well portrayed, both musically and dramatically. The intensity of emotion, particularly in Act II ("*Deh per questo istante solo*") made her Sesto steal the show, as evidenced by the warmth of the audience's applause for her."

Other recent and future engagements include *Rigoletto* with the **Cercle de l'Harmonie** at the **Festival Berlioz** in La Côte Saint-André and in Bremen, *Falstaff* (Meg Page) in Lille, Luxembourg and Caen, *La Tragédie de Carmen* at the **Theatre des Champs-Élysées** in Paris and on tour with the ensemble **Miroirs étendus**, *Carmen* (title role) at the **Opéra Royal de Wallonie**, a French version of *Salomé* (Hérodias) in Metz, *La Mort de Cléopâtre* in concert at the **Angers-Nantes Opera**, and *Ariane* (Perséphone) by Massenet in Munich, which will be recorded under the **Palazzetto Bru Zane** label.

In recent seasons, Julie appeared as Gertrude in *Hamlet* in a new production with **Opera de Nantes/Angers** and **Opera de Rennes**. At **Lausanne Opera** she sang the title role in *La Belle Hélène*, a role she previously performed at **Opera de Rennes**, **Opera de Vichy** and in Avignon, and a new production of *Don Quichotte* as Dulcinée at **Opera de Tours**.

Additional career highlights include Robard-Gendre's **Paris Opera** debut as Dame d'honneur/Bohémienne in *Les Huguenots* and a reprise of Zweite Dame in Robert Carsen's production of *Die Zauberflöte*. She made her debut in the title role of *Carmen* at **Opera de Rennes** and was highly acclaimed by critics and public alike as Ghita in *Der Zwerg* at **Opera de Lille, Opera de Rennes** and **Opera de Caen**. Of her Lille performance, Stephen J. Mudge wrote in **Opera News**: "The best singing of the evening on November 18 came from Julie Robard-Gendre as Ghita, principal lady-in-waiting. With sure, penetrating mezzo timbre, Robard-Gendre appealed for the humiliation of the dwarf to stop. Her final confrontation with Vidal's broken man was the most moving moment of the evening..."

Prior roles for the artist include: Orphée in *Orphée et Eurydice* at **Avignon, Liège** and **Opera de Nantes/Angers**, where she also revived the role of Prince Charming in *Cendrillon*; Olga in *Eugene Onegin* in Nice, Metz and Reims; Fenena in *Nabucco* in Toulon and Nice, and a debut at **Opéra de Monte Carlo** as the Kitchen Boy in *Rusalka*. She also enjoyed a debut at **Festival Aix-en-Provence** in the role of Ramiro in *La finta giardiniera*, which was broadcast live via ARTE.

On the concert stage, Julie has sung the alto solo in Beethoven's *Mass* with **Insula Orchestra**, *Les nuits d'été* with **Orleans Symphonic Orchestra**, **El amor brujo** with **L'Orchestre National de Bretagne** and *Le Poème de l'amour et de la mer* and *Il tramonto* with **L'orchestre Régional de Normandie**. In contemporary repertoire, she has collaborated with composers such as Michaël Levinas, who entrusted her with the role of La Huppe in *La Conférence des Oiseaux* at **La Biennale di Venezia**, and *Les Aragon*, which she sang with **Ensemble L'Itinéraire** and the **Philharmonic of Luxembourg**. With France's **Arcal Lyrique**, she participated in the creation of *Ni l'un ni l'autre* with the composer and inaugurated the role of Maria Smith in Régis Campo's *Les Quatres Jumelles*.

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