



Helen Medlyn

Height: 5' 5" / 167 cm



KAREN KAY
MANAGEMENT

Voice Sample: [Listen](#)

Summary

Helen Medlyn is a girl who's hard to define. She's a self-described Jill Of All Trades, having been a jazz chanteuse, a dancer, an actress, a musical theatre performer, a narrator, a comedienne, a classical concert singer, a voice-over artiste, an opera diva and a cabaret entertainer...sometimes, all in the same performance. Using her innate sense of fun, her musicality and her love of language she's been acclaimed both here and overseas for stamping her own style on all that she does. A few highlights from her immense body of work includes playing Prince Orlovsky in 'Fledermaus' for Opera Australia, portraying Concepcion in 'The Spanish Hour' for NBR NZ Opera, understudying Brangaene in 'Tristan and Isolde' for the English National Opera, performing Gillian Whitehead's vocal cantata "Alice" with the Auckland Philharmonia (written for Helen), singing Elgar's 'Sea Pictures' with the NZSO in Osaka; singing Brahms's 'Alto Rhapsody' with the London Philharmonic Choir and the Malaysian Philharmonic in Kuala Lumpur, performing Mahler's 'Song of the Earth' both with the AP and the NZSO, taking the role of Joy Gresham in the play "Shadowlands" at the Mercury Theatre, portraying Mrs Parker in the play 'Daughters of Heaven' for the Auckland Theatre Company, playing Fraülein Schneider in 'Cabaret' for the ATC, and creating and performing her 'hell' cabaret shows with Penny Dodd. Although Helen embarked on her professional career in 1981 as a dancer in the NZ tour of 'Evita', her performance work remained sporadic. Through the 80's, she took major roles in productions for the Mercury Theatre, Centrepoint Theatre and Auckland operatic societies but she still retained her day job. However, in 1989, she walked away from being a television and radio producer at the advertising agency, Saatchi & Saatchi, and launched herself into a full-time professional performing career with her opera debut as Marthe in the Mercury Theatre's production of "Faust". Honoured with being made an Arts Foundation of New Zealand Laureate in 2002, Helen is now established as a regular guest artist with opera companies and orchestras throughout Australasia, Asia, America and Britain and continues to garner flattering critical acclaim for her distinctive performances. Helen is available to perform for corporate events.

Film

1993	Jack Be Nimble	Orphanage Nurse	Essential Productions Dir: Garth Maxwell
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Tele-Feature

2010	Bloodlines	Ruby Langsford	Screenetime Dir: Peter Burger
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Television

2006	The Great NZ Spelling Bee	Celebrity Contestant	Television New Zealand (TVNZ)
2005	Shortland Street	Rosalind Dashwell	South Pacific Pictures Ltd



1993	Give Us a Clue	Guest	TV3 First Pictures
1993	The Tommyknockers	Neurologist #2	Konigsberg/Sanitsky Company Dir: John Power

Theatre

2013	Hell on Wheels	Herself - Solo Show	Operatunity Dir: John Cameron
1997	Die Fledermaus	Prince Orlofsky	Opera Australia
1993	Daughters of Heaven	Mrs Rieper	Auckland Theatre Company Dir: Colin McColl
1993	The Magic Flute (Australia & NZ)	Third Lady	Opera Australia Auckland Opera Company
1992	The Hungry City	Performer	Watershed Theatre Dir: Michael Hurst
1991	Lets Do It	Performer	Mercury Theatre Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1991	Shadowlands	Joy Gresham	Mercury Theatre Dir: Paul Minifie
1990	Carousel	Nettie	Mercury Theatre Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1990	The Barber of Seville	Berta	Mercury Theatre Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1990	Turandot	Performer	Mercury Theatre Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1989	Don Giovanni	Performer	Mercury Theatre Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1989	Faust	Marthe (Opera Debut)	Mercury Theatre Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1989	Fiddler on the Roof	Fruma Sarah	Mercury Theatre Dir: Paul Minifie



1988	Madam Butterfly	Performer	Mercury Theatre Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1988	Riders to the Sea	Performer	Mercury Theatre
1985	Sweet Charity	Nicky	Mercury Theatre
1983	Tomfoolery	Various	Centrepoint Theatre

Musical Theatre

2013	Pirates of Penzance	Ruth	Ben McDonald Ltd Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
2012	The Bartered Bride	Hata	Opera New Zealand Dir: Daniel Slater
2011	The Wizard of Oz	The Wicked Witch of the West / Almira Gultch	Peach Theatre Company Dir: Jesse Peach
2005	High Society	Mrs. Seth Lord	Auckland Theatre Company Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1999	Cabaret	Fraulein Schneider	Auckland Theatre Company Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1998	Gianni Schicchi	Zita	Opera New Zealand
1998	The Spanish Hour	Concepcion	Opera New Zealand
1996	Theres No Business Like Show Business	Performer	Christchurch Symphony Orchestra
1995	On a Clear Day	Performer	Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra
1994	Madam Butterfly	Mrs Pinkerton	Auckland Opera Company
1994	Makin' Whoopee	Performer	Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra
1993	Faust	Marthe	Opera New Zealand
1993	Rigoletto	Maddalena	Opera Australia
1992	West End Magic	Performer	Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra



1991	The Marriage of Figaro	Marcellina	Auckland Opera Company Dir: Raymond Hawthorne
1982	Jesus Christ Superstar	Mary Magdalene	Mercury Theatre

Live Performance

2013	The Dream of Gerontius	The Angel	Auckland Choral Dir: Uwe Grodd
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Voice

2007	The Adventures of Voopa the Goolash	Bumpi	Photon Animation Limited Dir: Trevor Hawkins
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Training

Singing	Janice Webb
Acting Master Class	Raymond Hawthorne

Skills

Singing	Opera
Dance	Modern Dancing