



Serena Sáenz

Soprano

Born in 1994, Spanish soprano Serena Sáenz studied at the Liceu Conservatoire in Barcelona with Prof. Dolors Aldea and at the Hochschule für Musik 'Hanns Eisler' in Berlin with Prof. Anna Korondi.

In 2019, during her first season as a member of the Staatsoper Berlin International Opera Studio, Serena was due to sing Papagena when at short notice she was asked to jump in as Pamina for the opening night of Yuval Sharon's production of *Die Zauberflöte*, conducted by Alondra de la Parra. Subsequent appearances for the house included further performances of Pamina, and three notable role debuts: Frasquita *Carmen* and Der Waldvogel *Siegfried*, both conducted by Daniel Barenboim, and Zerlina *Don Giovanni* with Pablo Heras-Casado.

This season Serena returns to Staatsoper Berlin as a guest artist to reprise Pamina *Die Zauberflöte* and to give her debut as Zerbinetta *Ariadne auf Naxos* in a new production conducted by Thomas Guggeis. She also makes her house debuts for *L'Opera de Sabadell* (Pamina) and for Liceu Barcelona Opera in her role debut as Lucia *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Future plans include further appearances for Staatsoper Berlin and Liceu Barcelona Opera, and her debuts for Ópera de Oviedo and Opéra national de Montpellier.

Previously for Staatsoper Berlin Serena has performed Taumännchen *Hänsel und Gretel*, Lauretta *Betrothal in a Monastery*, Contessa Ceprano and Paggio *Rigoletto*, Dienerin 1/Kinderstimme 1 *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, Eine Hirtin *Hippolyte et Aricie*, and Papagena *Die Zauberflöte*. Further operatic engagements have included Isabella in Rossini *L'inganno felice*, Adina *L'elisir d'amore* and La Comtesse Adèle *Il Comte Ory* for Teatro Sarrìa in Barcelona; Clarice in Haydn *Il Mondo della Luna* at the 'Hanns Eisler' Conservatory; Gretel *Hänsel und Gretel* at the Opernakademie Wiekersheim; Alice *Le Comte Ory* and Chiara *Il Conte di Marsico* at the Rossini in Wildbad Festival; and Susanna *Le Nozze di Figaro* (in concert) with Orfeó Catalá.

Recent/future concert highlights include her recital debut for the Palau de la Música Catalana, where she also previously performed *Carmina Burana* under Simon Halsey, and again this season under Esteve Nabona; her debut for the Pierre Boulez-Saal performing a Scarlatti programme with Accademia Bizantina as part of Staatsoper Berlin's Barocktage festival; Mozart *C Minor Mass* with Orquesta Sinfónica y Coro de RTVE conducted by Antonio Méndez, and Mahler *Symphony No. 4* with Orquesta Sinfonica de Euskadi and Semyon Bychkov.

In January 2018 Serena was awarded both the Mozart Prize and the Accademia Chigiana di Siena Prize at the Viñas International Singing Contest in Barcelona. Further awards have included the International Gesangswettbewerb 'Ferruccio Tagliavini' in Austria and the Concours International de Chant in Mâcon, France. She has also participated in masterclasses with Mariella Devia, Wolfram Rieger, Montserrat Caballé and Riccardo Frizza. Alongside her musical studies, Serena trained in ballet and modern dance in her hometown of Barcelona.