

Gal James
Soprano



Israeli spinto-soprano Gal James has established herself in recent years on the European opera and concert stages as an artist of unusual sensitivity and great vocal beauty.

Operatic highlights include *Rusalka* at Semperoper Dresden, *Rachel/La Juive* at Opera Vlaanderen, *Arabella* for Theater St. Gallen and *Mimi* at the Palau de les Arts Valencia, under Riccardo Chailly (released on DVD), *Mimi/La Bohème* at Opera Vlaanderen and *Rusalka* at Vienna State Opera.

Last season, Gal James joined the ensemble of Oper Leipzig, appearing as *Contessa/Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Marguerite/Faust*, *Liù/Turandot*, and giving role debuts as *Freia/Das Rheingold*, *Gutrune/Götterdämmerung* and *Agathe in Der Freischütz*.

In 2017/18, she will perform her first *Elisabetta* in a new production of *Don Carlo* and *Gerhilde* in *Walküre* for this house, next to her roles from last season. Other highlights for this season include *Agathe* at the Grafenegg Festspiele, the title role in Goldschmidt's *Beatrice Cenci* at the Bregenzer Festspiele and Strauss' *Vier letzte Lieder* with La Verdi in Milan.

A former ensemble member of Oper Graz, her roles for this house have included *Jenufa*, *Rusalka*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Eva/Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, *Contessa/Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Donna Anna/Don Giovanni*, *Marguerite/Faust*, *Desdemona/Otello*, *Chrysothemis/Elektra*, *Liù/Turandot*, *Michaela/Carmen*, *Marietta/Die tote Stadt* and *Elsa/Lohengrin*.

On the concert platform, Gal James has performed Mendelssohn's *Elias* with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Strauss's *Vier letzte Lieder* with the Bochumer Symphoniker, the Oslo Philharmonic and the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle* at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Mendelssohn's Psalm 42 with the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, a selection of Strauss songs with the Grazer Philharmonisches Orchester at the Wiener Musikverein, Bernstein's *Jeremiah Symphony* and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Bochumer Symphoniker, Shostakovich's 14th Symphony with the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra under Vasily Petrenko (both released on CD).

In her home country, she has appeared with the Israeli Chamber Orchestra, the Israeli Philharmonic Singer's Chorus, at the Jerusalem Music Center, the Abu-Gosh Festival and with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

Conductors and directors she has worked with include Daniel Barenboim, Seiji Ozawa, Neeme Järvi, Steven Sloane, Julien Salemkour, Johannes Fritzsich, Ion Marin, Dan Ettinger, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Tomas Netopil, Hervé Niquet, Michael Boder, Stefan Herheim, Peter Konwitschny and Robert Carsen.

Ms James has won several awards, including third prize at the 2006 Belvedere Competition in Vienna, first prize in the 2005 Aviv Vocal competition, first prize at the Voice Competition of the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel-Aviv University, her alma mater. After graduating as a cello player, she studied voice, coached by Prof. Mira Zakai. She is a former member of the opera studio of the Staatsoper Berlin and continues to study with Patricia McCaffrey.

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