

## **Claire Groom - Full Biography**

Soprano Claire Groom graduated with distinction from the Royal Northern College of music in 2005. She studies with Barbara Robotham.

In her final year at the RNCM she was awarded the Joyce and Michael Kennedy Award for the Singing of Strauss, the Bruce Millar/Gulliver Prize for young opera singers, the Dame Eva Turner Award for potential dramatic soprano's, The Robin Kay Memorial Prize for Opera Singing and the Diva Opera Young Artist Award. She has also been supported by the Amanda Rookcroft Award, Lucy Pierce Award and the John Cameron Prize for Lieder.

In 2005 Claire was awarded a coveted BBC Fame Academy Bursary worth £37,500 to fund her training and promotion.

She is now enjoying an exciting concert and recital schedule. In 2006 she was asked to perform alongside Jose Carreras as Rosalinda in the party scene from *Die Fledermaus*, hosted by Sir John Major. She made her Royal Albert Hall debut in Handel's *Messiah* conducted by Sir David Willcocks in 2004, as a result of which she was invited back to sing Mozart's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation* with Brian Kay and the *Messiah* once again in the Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing. She has sung for the BBC Proms/Radio 3 and at venues such as the Bridgewater Hall, Victoria and Albert Museum and The Wigmore Hall. Claire has a great love of Richard Strauss - she has toured Germany singing the *Vier Letzte Lieder* and recently performed them with the Sheffield Philharmonic. In 2006 she gave a recital as part of the 'rising Stars' series at the Lake District Festival.

As an oratorio soloist she has performed works by Bach (*Magnificat*, *St Matthew Passion*, *St John Passion*), Vivaldi (*Gloria*), Beethoven (*Mass in C*), Mozart (*Requiem*, *Solemn Vespers*, *Coronation Mass*, *Mass in C minor*, *Te Deum*, *Exultate Jubilate*), Haydn (*Nelson Mass*, *The Seasons*, *Heiligmesse*, *Creation*), Mendelssohn (*Elijah*, *Lauda Sion*, *Hymn of Praise*), Brahms (*German Requiem*), Elgar (*Spirit of England*), Jenkins (*Mass for Peace*), Verdi (*Requiem*), Dvorak (*Te Deum*), Orff (*Carmina Burana*) and Poulenc (*Gloria*).

In her final year at the RNCM Claire performed the lead role of Magda in Puccini's *La Rondine* to wide critical acclaim. She has since toured Europe singing the roles of Adina (*L'Elisir D'Amore*), Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Donna Anna (Don Giovanni) for Diva Opera and Violetta (*La Traviata*) at the Mananan International Opera Festival.

Other roles whilst at the RNCM included Karen (*A Better Place*, RNCM) and covers of Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*, RNCM), Rosalinda (*Die Fledermaus*, Clonter Opera) Fiorilla (*Il Turco in Italia*, Buxton Festival ) and Silvia (*Ascanio in Alba*, Buxton Festival).

Claire also enjoys working with contemporary composers. In 2002 she covered the role of Hadewijch in Andriessen's opera *De Materie* (UK première). In 2003 she performed Pintscher's *Lieder und Schneebilder* at the BBC proms and *Nine Settings of Lorine Niedecker* for Sir Harrison Birtwistle. In 2004 she was soloist for the UK premiere of Tovey's *Requiem for a Charred Skull* and performed part of Gruber's *Frankenstein!!* at the Wigmore Hall.

Claire would like to take this opportunity to thank the BBC for their support.

For more information please visit [www.clairegroom.com](http://www.clairegroom.com)