

# BALMER & DIXON MANAGEMENT AG

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## **CLAUDE EICHENBERGER, Mezzosoprano**

Mezzo-soprano Claude Eichenberger has been a permanent member of the solo ensemble at Bühnen Bern for many years. She has performed important roles in her repertoire at her home theatre, including the title role in CARMEN (the live opera film of which was made by Arthaus Musik and is also available on DVD), *Ortrud* in LOHENGRIN, *Venus* in TANNHÄUSER, *Brangäne* in TRISTAN UND ISOLDE, *Fricka* in WALKÜRE, *Baba* in Menotti's THE MEDIUM, *Octavian* in ROSENKAVALIER, *der Komponist* in ARIADNE AUF NAXOS, *Herodias* in SALOME, *Judith* in HERZOG BLAUBARTS BURG or *Kostelnička Buryjovka* in Janáček's opera JENŮFA.

In contemporary operas, she has sung *Jitsuko* in HANJO by Toshio Hosokawa, *the sweet girl* in Philipp Boesmans' opera REIGEN (after Arthur Schnitzler), *Magda* in the world premiere of Xavier Dayer's opera ALZHEIM, *Mrs. McNeill* in the opera BREAKING THE WAVES by the American composer Missy Mazzoli (based on the film of the same name by Lars van Trier) and the leading female role *Sie* in the world premiere of the opera LIEBESGESANG by Georg Friedrich Haas.

Claude has appeared internationally as *der Komponist* in Richard Strauss' opera ARIADNE AUF NAXOS under the baton of Roland Böer and the direction of Tilman Knabe in Montepulciano and as *Zweite Dame* in Mozart's ZAUBERFLÖTE at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in the legendary Everding production. In 2016 she sang *der Page* in SALOME at the Alte Oper Frankfurt under Andrés Orozco-Estrada (a live CD has been released by PENTATONE). In 2019, the artist made her debut with the role of *Brangäne* in TRISTAN UND ISOLDE at the Royal Opera in Copenhagen under the direction of Lothar Koenigs, and in 2021 she also sang the *Küsterin/Kostelnička* at the Zaterdagmatinee in Amsterdam under the direction of Patrick Lange.

In 2023, she made her successful debut at the Hamburg State Opera as *Venus* in TANNHÄUSER under the baton of Kent Nagano.

In the 2023/2024 season, in addition to her duties in Bern, Claude appeared as *Fricka* in WALKÜRE on tour with Concerto Köln and again under Mo Nagano in almost all of Europe's major concert halls. She also made her house debut as *Kostelnička* at the National Opera in Prague.

Future engagements include her eagerly awaited role debut in Bern as *Brünnhilde* in Wagner's GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG.

Claude already pursued a busy career as a concert singer during her studies. Her concert repertoire includes all the great masses, passions and oratorios by Bach and Handel, Mendelssohn, Rossini, Dvorák, Verdi (Requiem) and others. She has recorded several Bach cantatas on DVD and CD for the Bach Foundation St. Gallen under the direction of Rudolf Lutz. For example, the two solo cantatas 35 (Geist und Seele wird verwirret) and 169 (Gott soll allein mein Herze haben) are available. In symphony concerts, she has performed Brahms' Alto Rhapsody, Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen, Lied von der Erde (conducted by Eliahu Inbal), Mahler's Das klagende Lied (conducted by Yoel Gamzou), Wagner's Wesendonck Lieder and Frank Martin's Cornet, among others. In 2022, she sang the alto part of J.S. Bach's Mass in B minor under the direction of Andreas Reize with the Thomanerchor and the Gewandhaus Orchestra in the Thomaskirche Leipzig (the live CD was released by Rondeau Productions in June 2023).

The song has a special place in the artist's life and heart. Claude enjoys singing lieder herself and has also been the artistic director of the event series DasLied - Liedrezitale Bern together with pianist Alexander Ruef since summer 2022 and is committed spreading the word about song in its most diverse forms.

Claude grew up in Switzerland. After secondary school, she joined Prof Elisabeth Glauser's singing class at the Bern University of the Arts. She graduated in 2000 with a teaching diploma and in 2003 with a soloist diploma (Master's equivalent) with honours and the Eduard Tschumi Prize (best soloist diploma of the year). She completed her opera training at the Zurich International Opera Studio. She studied song singing with Tomasz Herbut at the Bern University of the Arts and with Irwin Gage at the Zurich University of Music.

Claude returned to the Bern University of the Arts as a lecturer in the core vocal subject, passing on her impulses to the next generation of singers both there and as a private teacher.

Claude Eichenberger has lived with her family in the city of Bern for many years, likes to call herself a Bernese by choice and works here and elsewhere with great passion and dedication. In November 2022, she was awarded the Music Prize of the Canton of Bern for her "world-class local work".