

The Belgian soprano
Hélène Bernardy

studied music at the Conservatoire Royal de Liège, where she obtained diplomas in vocal performance and chamber music.

Hélène made her professional debut in 1996 with Opéra de Marseille, appearing as **Helmwige** in *Die Walküre* and **Blumenmädchen** in *Parsifal* before interpreting her first principal role: **Jaroslavna** in *Prince Igor*.

In 1997, Hélène joined the troupe of the Chemnitz Opera (Germany), where she sang her first **Sieglinde** in *Die Walküre*, under the musical direction of Oleg Caetani, in a performance unanimously praised by audience and critics alike. In Chemnitz, she sang a range of operatic roles including **Donna Anna** in *Don Giovanni*, **Mimi** in *La Bohème*, **Santuzza** in *Cavalleria rusticana*, **Senta** in *Der fliegende Holländer* and the title role in **Adriana Lecouvreur**. She also appeared for the first time in several operettas: as **Lisa** in *Land des Lächelns*, **Kurfürstin** in *Der Vogelhändler*, **Rosalinde** in *Die Fledermaus* and **Mariza** in *Gräfin Mariza*, a role she later performed in concert in Nüremberg. Moreover, she was **Rachel** in the world premiere of the original German version of *Der Weg der Verheissung* (Kurt Weill), under the direction of John Mauceri, in Chemnitz and in New York at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. In Bremerhaven, Hélène took part in a symphonic concert featuring *Das dunkle Reich* (Hans Pfitzner) and the *Glagolitic Mass* (L. Janacek).

In 1998, Hélène made guest appearances as **Donna Anna** in *Don Giovanni* at the Festival of Antibes, as **Mrs. Maurant** in *Street Scene* (Kurt Weill) in Brussels and Tournai, and finally as **Sieglinde** in Dublin, under the direction of Alexander Anissimov.

From 2000, Hélène was engaged for two years by the Karlsruhe Opera, under the musical direction of Kazushi Ono. There, she interpreted roles including the title role in **Aïda**, **Elsa** in *Lohengrin*, **Rosalinde** in *Die Fledermaus*, **Contessa** in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, as well as **Sieglinde**.

In 2001, Hélène made her Belgian debut with the Opéra Royal de Wallonie in Liège, where she appeared as **Senta** in *Der fliegende Holländer*.

In 2002, Hélène again performed the role of **Sieglinde** with the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland in Birmingham and Limerick. She also sang the title role in **Aïda** for the Göteborg Opera (Sweden).

On the occasion of the entry of the Czech Republic into the European Community, Hélène was invited by the Czech National Opera in Prague to perform Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, under the direction of Zdenek Macal.

In 2004/2005, she sang her first **Marie** in *Wozzek* in Tel-Aviv, her first **Tosca** in Rouen and at the Festival of Immling, and **Senta** in Rennes. For the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, Hélène appeared in concert in *White as Jasmine*, a work for soprano and orchestra by composer Jonathan Harvey, under the direction of Kazushi Ono. She also interpreted the roles of **Emma** in *Khovanchchina*, **Genièvre** in *Le Roi Arthur*, **Senta** in *Der fliegende Holländer* and **Ellen Orford** in *Peter Grimes*, a role she later performed in the same production in Bilbao.

Moreover, she toured with the company to Japan for a series of concerts including *Trakl-Lieder* (Boesmans), *Shéhérazade* (Ravel) and **Donna Anna** in *Don Giovanni*, all under the direction of Kazushi Ono.

In 2006, Héléne sang **the Woman** in *Erwartung* (Schönberg) for the first time for Opéra de Massy. She also presented her first **Lieder recitals** (works by Schubert, Mahler, Strauss, J. Marx and others) in Brussels, accompanied by the Austrian pianist Peter Tomek. For the festival *Juillet musical de Saint-Hubert*, Héléne performed a program featuring several **concert arias** by Mozart with the Belgian National Orchestra, under the baton of Elvind Aadland. Shortly thereafter, she made her role debut as **Elisabetta** in *DonCarlo* with the Festival of Immling.

In 2007, Héléne appeared in the role of **Giorgetta** in *Il tabarro* at the opera houses in Lyon and Saint-Etienne, under the stage direction of David Poutney. Later, she once again performed *Trakl-Lieder* (Boesmans), as part of the opening concert of the festival *Acanthes* in Metz.

In 2008, Héléne performed *Les nuits d'été* (Berlioz) with orchestra as part of a concert tour in the context of the cooperation in the greater region joining Belgium, France, Germany and Luxemburg.

In 2009, Héléne made her debut as **Ariadne** in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Grand Théâtre in Tours, under the musical direction of Jean-Yves Ossonce, concerts of *Vier letzte Lieder* (Richard Strauss) with the Neue Lausitzer Philharmonie in Görlitz.

In 2010 **Fata Morgana** in *L'amour des trois oranges* in Dijon and Limoges, and Isolde in *Tristan und Isolde* in a concert version in Gdansk, also **Sieglinde** at the Staatsoper Hannover and **Senta** at the Immling-Festival

In 2011 she performed also **Fata Morgana** in Bern, was committed to the Staatstheater Braunschweig for Mascagnis **Isabeau** and sung during a benefit concert with Joe Hisaishi songs from his movies.

Since September 2008, Héléne has been a member of the voice faculty at the Conservatoire Royal de Liège.

The artist's discography includes Mahler's *2nd Symphony*, under the direction of Oleg Caetani.