



CLAIRE LEES - Soprano

This season British Soprano **Claire Lees** will return to Opera North and Garsington Opera in the Summer of 2027. She will also make her debut with the Academy of Ancient Music for Handel's *Brookes-Passion*. Last season saw Claire return to Garsington for **Minerva/Amore** in *Il ritorno d'Ulisse*, conducted by Laurence Cummings. She also reprised the role of **Susanna** in *Le Nozze di Figaro* for Opera North.

Previous highlights include **Pamina** in *The Magic Flute* for Opera North, Mozart's *C Minor Mass* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and **Despina** in *Così fan tutte* for the Nevill Holt Festival, for which she received widespread critical acclaim- '***She is the star of the evening.... She sparkles on the stage***' (Seen & Heard International).

Her roles for Garsington Opera include **Susanna** *Le Nozze di Figaro*, **La Musica** *Orfeo* and **Naiad** *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Elsewhere highlights include **Lisette** *La rondine* (Opera North), **Barbarina** *Le Nozze di Figaro* and **Oscar** *Un ballo in maschera* (Opera Holland Park), **Adina** *L'elisir d'amore* (Iford Opera) and **Venus** *Venus and Adonis* (Blackheath Opera). In 2023 she returned to Glyndebourne Festival Opera to cover the title role in *Semele*.

Claire is a graduate of both the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She is a Samling Artist, winner of the 2019 Wil Keune Mozart Prize at the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition and a recipient of an Opera Awards Foundation bursary. In 2023 she won the Leonard Ingram award at Garsington Opera for her performance as **Naiad** in *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

September 2026

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