

VICTORIA SIMMONDS studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she was awarded the Countess of Munster Award, Sybill Tutton Award, and the Maggie Teyte Prize. In 1999 she sang an acclaimed Rosina for British Youth Opera, and Sesto/La Clemenza di Tito for Glyndebourne Touring Opera. In 2000 Victoria made her English National Opera debut as Nancy T'ang in Adam's Nixon in China, conducted by Paul Daniel and directed by Peter Sellars. She went on to become a company principal there singing such roles as Cherubino/ Figaro, Mercedes/Carmen, Zaida/The Turk in Italy, Pitti-Sing/The Mikado, Ascanius/The Trojans, Rosina/The Barber of Seville, Dorabella/Così fan tutte, Hermia/A Midsummer Night's Dream and Zerlina/Don Giovanni.



In 2005 Victoria sang the title role in Carmen in the Royal Albert Hall and in the spring of 2005 she made her debut at the Netherlands Opera singing Lucienne/Die Tote Stadt (Korngold). Festival engagements include the title role in La Perichole and Ines/Maria Padilla, both for Buxton Festival, Isolier/Le Comte Ory for Garsington, and Olga/Eugene Onegin for Opera Holland Park. She sang Wellgunde/Das Rheingold for Aix en Provence/Salzburg in 2006/7 with Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic. Last year she sang Meg Page/Falstaff for Grange Park, and Varvara/Katya Kabanova on Chandos' critically acclaimed recording. Other recordings include Cefisa/Ermione for Opera Rara.

Concert engagements have included the Philharmonia in the Royal Festival Hall, Janacek Diary of one who disappeared for the Hallé, Ascanius/Les Troyens with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Colin Davis at the 2003 BBC Proms, and a recital at the 2004 Buxton Festival. In 2005 she returned to the Proms and made her Concertgebouw debut in Le Comte Ory. She made her Salzburg Festival debut in 2006 and her Edinburgh Festival debut in 2007. She returned to the Concertgebouw in 2007 to perform the title role in L'Enfant et le Sortileges. She recently performed Henze's Voices with the London Sinfonietta in Krakov, Marguerita in a concert performance of La Damnation de Faust in Canterbury Cathedral, and B Minor Mass at St John's Smith Square.

In 2007 she created the title role in Jonathan Dove's The Adventures of Pinocchio for Opera North. She recently returned there to sing Dorabella in Tim Albery's production. Future engagements include Idamante for Buxton and Dream of Gerontius in Canterbury.