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Mezzo soprano

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Letter from Melba Opera Trust alumna

Dear Eleanor Blakemore Opera Society,

I hope this letter finds you well. My last few years in the UK have been extremely rewarding and I have had such a positive experience studying at the Royal Academy of Music. I am grateful to have been the recipient of the Eleanor Blakemore Opera Society Scholarship, and it is through this generous support that I was able to work on my artistry and refine my craft with the wonderful organisation, Melba Opera Trust. The two years as a Melba Opera Trust Artist allowed me to hone my skills as a young opera singer, and this meant I was able to make the most of my studying time here in the UK.

I had a fantastic three years at the Royal Academy of Music and learnt a lot about myself as an artist. I received a Master of Arts in Performance, graduating with a Distinction and a DipRAM for an outstanding performance in my final recital, and then continued with the Royal Academy of Music Opera School for two years. Two highlights for me were singing the role of 'Nancy' in the Academy's production of *Albert Herring* by Britten, and the role of 'Baba the Turk' in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*.

I have spent this summer at Garsington opera as an Alvarez Young Artist. I was in the chorus of *Le nozze di Figaro* and covered Marcellina, and then covered the 'Moon Queen' in Andrew Norman's *A Trip to the Moon*. I have gained a wealth of knowledge working with a professional opera company, and had the opportunity to perform Marcellina on the mainstage as part of an OperaFirst Performance.

This 24/25 season I am an emerging artist with Scottish Opera. I am so looking forward to performing with them in some of their mainstage productions, as well as touring around Scotland for an opera highlights tour. My first role is 'Nancy' in *Albert Herring*, and I am excited to find new ways of portraying 'Nancy' in this new production.

I am very thankful to Melba Opera Trust and Eleanor Blakemore Opera Society for the support shown to young Australian artists. Your commitment really helps nurture talent and fosters a vibrant arts community. I am grateful to be able to share my operatic journey with you and look forward to singing for you again in the future.

Thank you again and all my best wishes,



Chloe Harris



Nancy in *Albert Herring*. Photography: Craig Fuller



Baba the Turk in *The Rake's Progress*. Photography: Craig Fuller