

## Our President: Sarah Walker C.B.E.

It is with great pleasure that we are able to say that Sarah graciously agreed to be our president. Welcome to The Family Sarah!

I am so thrilled to be able to welcome Sarah to the Bahay ng Pag-asa family; not only as our president, but also as our friend.

Sarah is a truly lovely lady as I discovered when we had a meal together in March to celebrate our joint birthdays! Life is full of strange coincidences isn't it...

I can never forget to send her a birthday card can I...?

## Formal Biography - long and thought by some (including Sarah) to be boring!

Sarah Walker C.B.E., F.R.C.M., F.G.S.M. is an artist of international standing both on the opera stage and on the concert platform world-wide. Having initially studied violin at the Royal College of Music, London, she subsequently began taking vocal lessons with the celebrated Hungarian teacher, Madame Vera Rozsa, with whom she built an extraordinarily wide repertoire ranging from Bach and the Baroque to twentieth century composers, such as Berio, Boulez, Cage, Henze, Ligeti, Copland and Ives, and is now commissioning new works from exciting, young, twenty-first century composers.

Since her debut at Glyndebourne - as Diana/Giove in Cavalli's *La Calisto*, she has sung in opera houses all over the world including The Royal Opera House Covent Garden - where she made her debut as Charlotte in Massenet's *Werther* opposite Alfredo Kraus; The Metropolitan Opera New York - where she debuted as Micah in Handel's *Samson* with Jon Vickers in the title role; the Vienna Staatsoper, Le Châtelet in Paris, Geneva, Brussels, Hamburg, Munich, Chicago, San Francisco, Lisbon, Madrid and many others. Among more than sixty roles in her repertoire are *Didon*, *Maria Stuarda*, *Fricka*, *Klytämnestra*, *Dorabella*, *Donna Elvira*, *Katisha*, *Mistress Quickly*, numerous Handel and Monteverdi heroines and the title role in Britten's *Gloriana*, videoed for Virgin Classics. Recent highlights included Pavarotti's 60th birthday performances of Donizetti's *La Fille du Regiment* at the Met, Peter Grimes at La Scala and *The Witch* in *Hänsel und Gretel* for L'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome.

On the concert platform Miss Walker has worked with conductors such as Solti, Kleiber, Norrington, Masur, Rattle, Eliot Gardiner, Muti, Harnoncourt, Mackerras, Rozdestvensky and Haitink. She was a memorable Britannia at the Last Night of the Proms in the Royal Albert Hall, London, and took part in the performance of Beethoven's 9th, conducted by the late Leonard Bernstein in Berlin, given to celebrate the opening of the Berlin Wall at Christmas in 1989.

Sarah Walker, however, has perhaps achieved her greatest critical acclaim on the recital platform for her interpretation of the Lied, Mélodie and Song repertoire. The overwhelming success of her Wigmore Hall debut established her as a recitalist of supreme excellence and this is reflected in more than fifty recordings reflecting her wide repertoire and artistry. She can now be seen and

heard at [www.sarahwalker.com](http://www.sarahwalker.com) on a computer near you.

Sarah Walker was made a C.B.E in the 1991 Queen's Birthday Honours.