



Catriona Morison • Prom 39

BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, 2017–19

Edinburgh-born mezzo-soprano Catriona Morison won BBC Cardiff Singer of the World, arguably the world's most prestigious vocal contest, two years ago. Not surprisingly, her life has changed immeasurably as a result. 'At the time it was really quite overwhelming – in a positive way, of course,' she remembers. 'But I didn't want to jump into anything – I needed some time to work things out.'

Her position as a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist has offered her similar opportunities: 'It's given me lots of contact with the BBC orchestras and the opportunity to record in the Maida Vale Studios.'

It's with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales that Morison makes her BBC Proms debut, with two contrasting works that place her voice firmly in the spotlight. Elgar's *Sea Pictures* is, Morison says, 'one of the most wonderful pieces written for mezzo – they have such beautiful, lyrical lines to sing'. Continuing the concert's image-related theme, Morison's second outing is in composer Errollyn Wallen's Howard Hodgkin-inspired *This Frame Is Part of the Painting*, a new work written specifically for her. 'I've been speaking to Errollyn quite a bit about it – she really wants to hear what's going to work best for me and I've benefited from hearing about her inspirations. It's amazing to be able to work so closely with a composer like that.'