

Antony Walker

Conductor



“ Musically, this production is in safe hands. Antony Walker conducts with a tight, fizzing beat. He brings out Gluck's expanding orchestral palette in all its technicolour glory, a real treat.”
Sydney Morning Herald

With a repertoire of over 200 works from lyric opera, oratorio, choral and symphonic repertoire to his credit, Australian-born conductor Antony Walker is well-suited to the role of Music Director at Pittsburgh Opera and Artistic Director at Washington Concert Opera, positions he continues throughout the 2018/19 season. He has led performances at The Metropolitan Opera, Canadian Opera, English National Opera, Opera Australia, Santa Fe Opera, Welsh National Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Maggio Musicale di Firenze, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of San Francisco Opera to name a few. Antony is also Music Director at Washington Concert Opera, for whom he conducts two titles per year.

Conductor Emeritus at Sydney's Pinchgut Opera, Antony is a prolific recording artist, having conducted and collaborated upon several award-winning recordings, of note The Voice with Teddy Tahu Rhodes which garnered the 2004 ARIA Award for Best Classical Music Album of the Year. His DVD of the *Emperor Concerto* (also on CD as part of a complete set of the Beethoven Piano Concertos) won the international DVD Association Award for Music Excellence. Releases of Pinchgut Opera live recordings on the ABC Classics and Pinchgut Live labels have consistently won praise both in Australia and abroad.

Originally trained as a cellist, Antony Walker's understanding of orchestral repertoire is broad, and he is known for his incisive interpretation and execution as well as his insightful reading of new works. A former tenor, he is particularly sensitive to the needs of vocalists,

founding Cantillation in Sydney—a chorus of professional singers—and leading the group in performances and recordings of early works. Formerly Musical Director of Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, he later moved to the UK to take up the position of Chorus Master and Staff Conductor for Welsh National Opera where he remained from 1998–2002.

Antony Walker is the recipient of numerous awards, including the distinguished Charles Mackerras Conducting Award. He was nominated for a DORA Award for Best Musical Direction for his interpretation for COC's *Maria Stuarda* and won the Green Room Award for his conducting of *Alcina* at Opera Australia.

Past highlights include *Dialogues des Carmelites* at Washington National Opera, Strauss's rarely heard *Guntram* at Washington Concert Opera, *Otello* and *La Fille du Regiment* at Pittsburgh Opera, *Le Nozze di Figaro* at West Australian Opera, and Merola's Grand Finale at San Francisco Opera.

Other recent highlights include his return to The Metropolitan Opera of New York for *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*; a new production of *Moby-Dick* at Pittsburgh Opera, and at Washington Concert Opera he conducted *La Favorite* and the rarely heard *Sapho*. His complete repertoire list can be found at www.rayfieldallied.com/artists/antony-walker

Artist Manager: Deborah Sanders
deborah.sanders@rayfieldallied.com

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For updated versions please contact
nathan.murphy@rayfieldallied.com