

Dane Lam

Conductor



“Dane Lam was endlessly energetic and uncompromising on rhythmic detail”

Flora Willson, *The Guardian*

Australian conductor Dane Lam is Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of China's Xi'an Symphony Orchestra. Acclaimed by *Limelight* magazine as "one of the most talented young conductors Australian has produced" and by the *Manchester Evening News* as "a master of rhythmic and articulatory complexities", he has earned a reputation as an electrifying musician in a large and varied repertoire.

Since appearing with the Sydney Symphony at Sydney Opera House at age eighteen, Dane has conducted orchestras on four continents including the Melbourne, Queensland, Adelaide, Canberra, Dunedin, Beijing, Suzhou, Kunming and Shandong Symphony Orchestras, Munich Radio Orchestra, Het Residentie Orkest, City of London Sinfonia, Manchester Camerata, South Bank Sinfonia, Liverpool Philharmonic Ensemble 10/10, RTE Concert Orchestra, Beethoven Orchester Bonn, Verbier Festival Orchestra, Juilliard Orchestra and Opera Queensland, Scottish Opera, Bury Court Opera, and Opera Holland Park.

Since Dane assumed the post of Principal Conductor in Xi'an in 2014, XSO's classical subscription offering has almost doubled while attendance has increased commensurately. He led the very first staged, professional opera in this 3000-year-old city with *Tosca* in 2015 and *Le nozze di Figaro* in 2016 while raising the artistic standard and profile of the orchestra to attract such artists as Jose Carreras, Sumi Jo, Midori Goto, and Yundi Li. Dane conducted the XSO at the 2016 CCTV1 Mid-Autumn Festival Gala which was televised live around China and internationally to an audience exceeding one billion viewers while presiding over a period of financial security for the organisation and forging international partnerships. Moreover, Xi'an has seen important premieres during Dane's tenure including the first Mahler Symphony (Symphony No. 4) in 2016 as well as the city's first cycle of Beethoven Symphonies in 2017.

Recent and future engagements include Carl Davis' *A Christmas Carol* with the Hague Residentie Orkest, *Orpheus & Eurydice* with Opera Queensland, *Don Giovanni* with Opera Australia, a return to Opera Holland Park, and performances with the Queensland, Western Australia and Canberra Symphony Orchestras, as well as a full season of concerts with the XSO with such collaborators as Martha Argerich, Alexandros Kapellis, Gidon Kremer, Angela Gheorghiu, Julian Rachlin, Barry Douglas and Narek Hakhnazaryan, and masterworks including Shostakovic's Symphony No. 10.

Dane has a close relationship with Opera Holland Park, where he has also conducted productions of *L'arlesiana*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Don Giovanni*, Mascagni's *Iris*, *Aida*, *Norma*, Will Todd's *Alice's Adventures* in

Wonderland, and a new production of *Così fan tutte*. He has also conducted British Youth Opera's *The Bartered Bride* and *Paul Bunyan*, and RNCM Opera's *La clemenza di Tito* and *Carmen*. He made his German debut with the Munich Radio Orchestra and his Royal Festival Hall debut with members of the London Philharmonic Orchestra as part of London Music Masteres' Bridge Program.

Dane has conducted in Asia with the Hokkaido Chamber Players in Sapporo's Kitara Hall and also toured the continent as assistant conductor with the Orchestre National de France. He made his New Zealand debut with Dunedin's Southern Sinfonia to which he has returned on numerous occasions and returned to his native Australia to tour with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. He led the world premiere season of Jonathan Henderson's opera *Dirty Apple* with Opera Queensland. Additionally, Dane was among a select group of conductors chosen by Masur to study with him in masterclasses in New York, Verbier and Bonn.

Born in Brisbane, Australia to an Australian mother and a Singaporean-Chinese father, Dane played piano, clarinet, and saxophone as a child, gaining entrance to the University of Queensland where he studied conducting under Gwyn Roberts. As an alumnus of Symphony Services Australia's Conductor Development Program, Dane conducted most of Australia's professional ensembles before the age of twenty and was propelled into an assistantship with Gianluigi Gelmetti, then Chief Conductor of the Sydney Symphony and Teatro dell'opera di Roma. With Gelmetti, Dane led the Sydney Symphony on tour as well as in the Sydney Opera House as well as spending three summers studying at Siena's Accademia Musicale Chigiana. Dane attained his Masters from The Juilliard School on a full scholarship under James DePreist before undertaking a highly-successful Junior Fellowship in Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music under Sir Mark Elder, Clark Rundell and Mark Heron.

In addition to the Junior Fellowship at the RNCM, Dane's previous posts include Assistant Conductor to Kurt Masur at the Orchestre National de France, Principal Conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Associate Conductor with Opera Holland Park. He was a Young Artist with Opera Queensland and is an International Ambassador of the Royal Northern College of Music and currently divides his time between London, Xi'an, and Brisbane.

Dane was nominated as "Best Newcomer" in the International Opera Awards 2018.

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