

Christian Curnyn

Conductor



Christian Curnyn is widely recognised as one of the UK's leading conductors specialising in the Baroque and Classical repertoire. In 1994 Christian founded the Early Opera Company with whom he appears regularly at the Wigmore Hall and St John's Smith Square for the London Festival of Baroque Music. They have also performed at the BBC Proms as well as at the Cheltenham, Spitalfields, York Early Music and Kilkenny Arts Festivals. The EOC made their Het Concertgebouw debut with a double bill of *Dido and Aeneas* and Blow's *Venus and Adonis* in 2018.

Much in demand on the operatic scene, in the UK Christian has conducted for Scottish Opera (Handel *Semele*), Opera North (Handel's *Saul* and *Giulio Cesare*), Grange Park Opera (*Semele*, Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Cavalli's *Eliogabalo*) and with Garsington Opera (*Die Zauberflöte* and Handel's *Amadigi*). He is a regular at English National Opera where successes have included Olivier Award-winning productions of Handel's *Partenope* and Rameau's *Castor et Pollux* (dir. Barrie Kosky), *After Dido* (Katie Mitchell's realisation of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*), Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, Charpentier's *Medée*, and Handel's *Rodelinda*.

For The Royal Opera, Covent Garden he has conducted Britten's *The Beggar's Opera*, Cavalli's *L'Ormindo* to inaugurate their series at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's The Globe, where he returned for Luigi Rossi's *Orfeo* (nominated for an Olivier Award), and Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse* at The Roundhouse. Most recently he conducted *Apollo e Dafne* and *Ariodante*.

Further afield he has worked with Opera Australia (*Partenope*), Landestheater Salzburg (Vivaldi's *Farnace* and Handel's *Ariodante*) Frankfurt Opera (Cavalli's *La Calisto* and Gluck's *Ezio*), Komische Oper Berlin (Rameau's *Castor et Pollux* and *Zoroastre*), Stuttgart Opera (Rameau's *Platée*, Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* and Handel's *Alcina*), Teatro Nacional de Sao Carlos (Mozart *Idomeneo*) and Theatre Basel (*Le nozze di Figaro*).

In the USA Christian has conducted *Partenope* and *Così fan Tutte* for New York City Opera, Handel's *Tolomeo* for Glimmerglass Opera, and Cavalli's *Giasone* and Charpentier's *Medée* for Chicago Opera Theater.

Specialist early music ensembles among Christian's regular collaborators include Academy of Ancient Music, AKAMUS, English Concert, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and the Irish and Wrocław Baroque orchestras. Alongside this work he takes a particular interest in performing Baroque and Classical repertoire with modern forces, including collaborations with Bournemouth Symphony, Ulster, Hallé, Scottish Chamber (including a recording on the Decca label with Nicola Benedetti), Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Stavanger Symphony, Ensemble Resonanz and Essen Philharmoniker. He has also conducted a Messiah tour in Australia with the Tasmanian, West Australian and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras.

Recent and forthcoming highlights include concerts with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, BBC NOW, and Komische Oper Berlin, *Acis and Galatea* with his Early Opera Company for the Buxton Festival, a new production of Handel's *Orlando* for Oper Halle which will also celebrate the 100th year of the Halle Festival, *Semele* with AKAMUS and Opera Collective Ireland and a return to the Royal Opera House Covent Garden for a new production. With the Early Opera Company he will conduct concerts at the Wigmore Hall, Bruges and Amsterdam Concertgebouw and St John Smith Square as well as record their next disc for Chandos records of Handel's *Amadigi*.

His extensive discography with the Early Opera Company for the Chandos label includes their 2005 recording of *Partenope* which won widespread critical acclaim, and their recording of *Semele* was chosen as a Best Recording of 2008 by The Sunday Times, Editor's Choice in Gramophone Magazine and awarded the 2008 Stanley Sadie Handel Prize. Further releases include *Il Trionfo del Tempo* for Wigmore Live, Eccles' *The Judgement of Paris*, (awarded a Diapason D'or), Britten's *The Beggar's Opera*, Handel's *Flavio*, *Alceste* (winner of the Opera award in the BBC Music Magazine Awards 2013), *Serse*, and most recently *Acis & Galatea* (winner of the Opera category of the 2019 BBC Music Magazine Awards).

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