Rayfield Allied

Garry Walker

Conductor



"With the excellent Chorus and Orchestra of Opera North on superb form under Garry Walker, whose Billy Budd in Leeds a year or two back confirmed him as a talent for years to come, this Greek Passion transcended the obstacles of text and staging to provide a vivid, intense musical experience." ***Musical America***

Scottish-born Garry Walker is the Music Director of Opera North, a position to which he was appointed in the 20/21 season following the huge success of an impressive and powerful *Billy Budd* and a double bill of *Gianni Schicchi* & *The Rite of Spring*. His conducting of Martinů's *The Greek Passion* and Bizet's *Carmen* in the 19/20 season was also widely acclaimed. Also for Opera North, he has conducted *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, *Falstaff*, *Albert Herring*, Mozart's *Requiem*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Der fliegende Holländer*. In the 2023/2024 season, he made his debut with Opera Australia conducting *Tosca* and symphonic repertoire including *Dvořák 9, Gulda Cello Concerto, Gershwin* and ending the season with *Mahler 1* and *Strauss Four Last Songs* with the orchestra of Opera North.

In the 2026/27 season, Garry will conduct *Eugene Onegin* and Will Todd's *A Christmas Carol* for Opera North, and leads the Orchestra of Opera North in concerts as part of the Kirklees Concert Series.

A natural leader, Garry has previously held the positions of Chief Conductor of the Rheinische Philharmonie Koblenz from 17/18 until the 21/22 season, Permanent Guest Conductor of Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Principal Guest Conductor of Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Principal Conductor of Paragon Ensemble, and Artistic Director of Conducting at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Garry is an outstanding musician whose particular strengths lie in the classical period, Mahler, Sibelius, Dvořák and music of the 20th and 21st centuries. During his tenure as Chief Conductor of the Rheinische Philharmonie Koblenz, his many wide-ranging performances have encompassed programmes of Adès, Beethoven, Bartók, Britten, Berio, Brahms, Dvořák, Haydn, John Williams, Kodály, Mahler, Mozart, Prokofiev, and many more. Together, Garry and the orchestra made their Amsterdam Concertgebouw debut in 2018, resulting in an immediate re-invitation, and a closing concert in 2022 to commemorate the end of his tenure.

In the UK Garry Walker has worked with all the BBC orchestras, Hallé, London Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Philharmonia, City of Birmingham Symphony and National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. Chamber orchestras have included the Britten Sinfonia, Manchester Camerata, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra and Academy of St Martin in the Fields. His regular appearances at the Edinburgh International Festival have included notable performances of *Mahler's Second Symphony*, *Kurtág's Stele*, and MacMillan's *The Quickening*, all with the RSNO. Further afield Garry has worked with orchestras including the Aalborg Symfoniorkester, Gothenburg Symphony, Dortmund Philharmoniker, Orchestra dell'Opera di Roma, Orchestre Philharmonique de Luxembourg, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, and Orchestra della Toscana. Garry has worked often in Australasia, having conducted the Adelaide, Melbourne and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras as well as Auckland Philharmonia. In North America he has worked with the Utah Symphony, Pacific and Asheville Symphony Orchestras.

Other operatic highlights outside of Opera North include David McVicar's acclaimed new production of Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and Raskatov's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *A Dog's Heart* for English National Opera, Cimarosa's *The Secret Marriage* for Scottish Opera, Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* and the critically acclaimed world premiere of Sawer's *The Skating Rink* for Garsington Opera, the world première of Stuart MacRae's opera *The Assassin Tree* and Britten's *Curlew River* for the Edinburgh International Festival. For the Linbury Studio, Royal Opera House he revisited the MacRae and conducted Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine*. On the continent he has conducted *Curlew River* for Lyon Opera, and a new production by Calixto Bieito of Hosokawa's *Hanjo* at the Ruhr Triennale.

Amongst the many international soloists with whom Garry Walker has collaborated are Maxim Vengerov, Sarah Chang, Jonas Kaufmann, Truls Mørk, Mischa Maisky, James Ehnes, David Geringas and Branford Marsalis.

His discography includes works by Havergal Brian and Matthew Taylor on Toccata Classics, Edward Harper on Delphian and Dvořák on Sony.

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