

Christian Curnyn

Conductor



“Christian Curnyn’s direction in the pit runs the gamut with magisterial ease from tempestuousness to the most exquisite tenderness.”

The Independent

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 set out to reinvigorate the Baroque repertoire. Christian and the EOC appear regularly at 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 debut at Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw with a double bill of *Dido and Aeneas* and Blow’s *Venus and Adonis* in 2018.

Highly regarded for his energetic conducting and creative vision, Christian has conducted Handel’s *Saul* and *Giulio Cesare* for Opera North, *Die Zauberflöte* and Handel’s *Amadigi* for Garsington Opera, Handel’s *Semele* for Scottish Opera and Grange Park Opera, for whom he has also conducted Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Cavalli’s *Eliogabalo*. 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* Monteverdi’s *Il ritorno d’Ulisse* at The Roundhouse, 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*, which was nominated for an Olivier Award. Most recently he conducted *Apollo e Dafne* and a concert production of Handel’s *Ariodante* at the Royal Opera House.

Christian’s work in Europe and beyond includes *Partenope* with Opera Australia, Vivaldi’s *Farnace* and Handel’s *Ariodante* for Landestheater Salzburg, Cavalli’s *La Calisto* and Gluck’s *Ezio* for Frankfurt Opera, *Castor et Pollux* and *Zoroastre* by Rameau at Komische Oper Berlin, Rameau’s *Platée*, Purcell’s *The Fairy Queen* and Handel’s *Alcina* at Stuttgart Opera, Mozart *Idomeneo* for Teatro Nacional de Sao Carlos and *Le nozze di Figaro* at Theater Basel. 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 Orchestra (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 of Handel’s *Alcina*. 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 releasing their recording of Handel’s *Amadigi* on Chandos Records.

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), *Seerse*, and most recently *Acis & Galatea* (winner of the Opera category of the 2019 BBC Music Magazine Awards).

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