

Christian Curnyn

Conductor



“Christian Curnyn’s conducting of the Handelfestspielorchester Halle was exemplary.”

Opera Magazine

Christian Curnyn is widely recognised as one of the UK’s leading conductors specialising in the Baroque. In 1994, Christian founded the Early Opera Company and with them has given notable performances throughout the UK and abroad, along with multiple award-winning recordings for the Chandos label. 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. Other award-winning discs include Eccles’ *The Judgement of Paris*, (awarded a Diapason D’or), Handel’s *Alceste* (winner of the Opera award in the BBC Music Magazine Awards 2013), *Acis & Galatea* (winner of the Opera award of the 2019 BBC Music Magazine Awards).

This season Christian returns to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden to conduct a new production of Handel’s *Semele* directed by Oliver Mears, after receiving much praise

in the press for *Alcina* in the 22/23 season. “Under Christian Curnyn the ROH orchestra was transformed, fizzing and swirling in a buff, buoyant version of period style that wasn’t afraid to flaunt its curves”. Richard Bratby, *The Spectator*.

Recent highlights include concerts with the Irish Chamber Orchestra, Aalborg and Antwerp Symphony Orchestras, Handel’s *La resurrezione* for the Haymarket Opera Company in Chicago, a double bill of Purcell’s *Dido and Aeneas* and Blow’s *Venus and Adonis* for Opera Collective Ireland/AKAMUS. With Early Opera Company he conducted a performance and recording of Maurice Greene’s *Jephtha*. EOC recently collaborated with Buxton International Festival on an acclaimed production of Handel’s *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*.

He has conducted notable opera productions in the UK, Europe and North America. For The Royal Opera, Covent Garden these include 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, Apollo e Dafne* (a series of short operas performed over Covid-19), a concert performance of Handel’s *Ariodante* and a new production of *Alcina*, (dir. Richard Jones). For English National Opera 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*. Elsewhere in the UK he has conducted productions for Opera North, Scottish Opera and Garsington Opera.

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, *Le nozze di Figaro* at Theater Basel and Handel’s *Orlando* for Oper Halle. 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 collaborators include Academy of Ancient Music, AKAMUS, English Concert, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and the Irish and Wrocław Baroque orchestras. He has also conducted programmes with modern forces including with the Bournemouth Symphony, Ulster, Hallé, Scottish Chamber Orchestra (including a recording on the Decca label with Nicola Benedetti), Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Stavanger Symphony, Ensemble Resonanz, Essen Philharmoniker and Budapest Festival Orchestra as well as a Messiah tour in Australia with the Tasmanian, West Australian and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras.

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