

# Christian Curnyn

Conductor



“And best of all, Christian Curnyn conducted in huge, succulent swirls and flourishes; Handel playing that hits you in the stomach and floods the ear with splendour.”

- *The Spectator*, 2025

**Christian Curnyn** is widely recognised as one of the UK's leading conductors specialising in music of the Baroque repertoire. He most recently returned to the Royal Ballet and Opera for Oliver Mears's production of Handel's *Semele* receiving high praise in the press. “Christian Curnyn supplied the most authoritative Handel conducting heard at this address for a good many years: expertly paced and drawing expressive singing and orchestral playing alike.”  
*Barry Millington, The Standard*

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) and *Acis & Galatea* (winner of the Opera award of the 2019 BBC Music Magazine Awards). Recent highlights with EOC include Handel's *Florriadante* as part of the London Handel Festival, Maurice Greene's *Jephtha* and Handel's *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* at the Buxton International Festival.

This season Christian makes a return to English National Opera for Christopher's Alden's acclaimed production of Handel's *Partenope* for which he conducted the premiere. Previous successes for the company include 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 Ballet and Opera, Covent Garden he has previously 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, 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). Elsewhere in the UK he has conducted productions for Opera North, Scottish Opera and Garsington Opera.

Christian's work on the opera stage 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. He guests regularly with early music ensembles such as the Academy of Ancient Music, AKAMUS, English Concert, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and the Irish and Wrocław Baroque orchestras but also enjoys conducting programmes with modern forces. He has previously worked 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, Athens State Symphony as well as a Messiah tour in Australia with the Tasmanian, West Australian and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras.

This season Christian makes his debut at Boston Baroque for a programme including Bach, Ferrandini and Rameau, as well as joining Irish Chamber Orchestra for their performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

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