



Christian Curnyn

Conductor

Christian Curnyn has emerged as one of the UK's leading conductors specialising in the Baroque and Classical repertoire.

In 1994 Christian founded the Early Opera Company (www.earlyopera.com). Notable Handel performances have included *Orlando* for the South Bank Centre Early Music Festival, *Partenope* for Buxton and Aldeburgh Festivals, and national tours of *Flavio* and *Susanna*. EOC appears regularly at the Wigmore Hall and St John's Smith Square, and has performed in concert at the Cheltenham Festival, Spitalfields Festival, York Early Music Festival, London Festival of Baroque Music, Kilkenny Arts Festival, and at the BBC Proms.

In the UK Christian has conducted Handel's *Semele* for Scottish Opera, Handel's *Saul* for Opera North, Britten's *The Beggar's Opera* for The Royal Opera, Covent Garden, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Semele* and Cavalli's *Eliogabalo* for Grange Park Opera, and Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Handel's *Orlando* and *Alcina* for Opera Theatre Company, Dublin.

In 2008 Christian Curnyn made his hugely successful debut with English National Opera in an Olivier Award winning production of Handel's *Partenope*. He has returned to ENO for *After Dido*, Katie Mitchell's realisation of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Barrie Kosky's Olivier Award-winning production of *Rameau's Castor et Pollux*, Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, Charpentier's *Medée*, and Handel's *Rodelinda*.

In 2014 he conducted Cavalli's *L'Ormindo* for The Royal Opera, Covent Garden to inaugurate their series at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's The Globe which he revived in 2015. Later that year he conducted Luigi Rossi's *Orfeo*, also for The Royal Opera.

In the USA Christian Curnyn 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.

Elsewhere 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*) and Stuttgart Opera (Rameau's *Platée*, Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* and Handel's *Alcina*). He conducted Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in Aldeburgh as part of the Britten centenary celebrations. He has conducted *Jephtha* for Hallé Handel Festival and Handel's *Susanna* for Karlsruhe Handel Festival.

On the concert platform, Christian has conducted the Bournemouth Symphony, Ulster, Hallé, Stavanger Symphony, Wrocław Baroque and Irish Baroque Orchestras as well as English Concert and Essen Philharmoniker. He toured Scotland with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Nicola Benedetti followed by a recording on the Decca label.

Recent and future highlights include a revival of *Rodelinda* at ENO, a new production of Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse* at The Roundhouse for ROH, *Die Zauberflöte* for Garsington Opera, and a new production at Opéra national du Rhin, as well as concerts with the Academy of Ancient Music, Philharmonie Essen, and a *Messiah* tour with Tasmania, West Australia, and Adelaide Symphony Orchestras.



His recording of *Partenope* for Chandos won widespread critical acclaim and his recording of *Semele* was chosen as a Best Recording of 2008 by The Sunday Times, Editor's Choice in Gramophone Magazine and was awarded the 2008 Stanley Sadie Handel Prize. Other releases on the Chandos label include Eccles' *The Judgement of Paris*, (awarded a Diapason D'or), Britten's *The Beggar's Opera* and Handel's *Alceste* which won the Opera award in the BBC Music Magazine Awards 2013. Recordings of Handel's *Flavio, Il Trionfo del Tempo* (Wigmore Live) and *Serse* have also been released to enthusiastic press acclaim.