

Ian Page (conductor)

Ian Page is the conductor and artistic director of the Classical Opera Company, which he founded in 1997, and has established an outstanding reputation as one of the leading Mozart conductors of his generation. He began his musical training as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, and read English Literature and Music at York University before studying piano and conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He worked for three years as assistant conductor at Glyndebourne Festival Opera, and also worked for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, English National Opera, Scottish Opera, Opera Factory and the Drottningholm Slottsteater, working with such conductors as Sir Charles Mackerras, Sir Alexander Gibson, Franz Welser-Möst, Ivor Bolton, Nicholas McGegan and Mark Wigglesworth. He studied with Norman Del Mar and Georg Tintner, and was one of six conductors selected from over 120 applicants to conduct in the final concert of the 1996 Milan International Conducting Masterclasses with Gianluigi Gelmetti.

With the Classical Opera Company he has appeared at Sadler's Wells, the Barbican Centre, Wigmore Hall, Kings Place, St John's Smith Square, St George's Bristol and Bridgewater Hall Manchester, at festivals in Brighton, Bath and Buxton, and on tour in Ireland, France, Germany and Italy. He has conducted numerous Mozart operas including *Apollo et Hyacinthus*, *Ascanio in Alba*, *Die Schuldigkeit des ersten Gebots*, *Bastien und Bastienne*, *Il re pastore*, *La finta semplice*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Lucio Silla* and the world premiere of the 'original version' of *Mitridate, re di Ponto* (which he researched and prepared in collaboration with the renowned Mozart scholar Stanley Sadie). In 2006 he directed as well as conducted the company's acclaimed production of *Così fan tutte*, which was nominated for the Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards, and he has also conducted further operas by Thomas Arne, J.C. Bach and Gluck (the U.K. premiere of his *La clemenza di Tito*, at the 2005 Lufthansa Baroque Festival).

He also conducts regular concerts with the company's period-instrument orchestra, including highly acclaimed Mozart, Haydn and composer retrospective series at the Wigmore Hall, and his orchestral repertoire with the company has ranged from Pergolesi cantatas to Beethoven and Schubert symphonies. Following his debut at the Barbican Centre in 2005 he was immediately invited to return there for the Mostly Mozart Festival. In 2008 he was invited to curate and direct biannual concert residencies at London's new concert hall, Kings Place, and has so far presented residencies on Mozart, Haydn and Handel. His debut CD, *The A-Z of Mozart Opera*, which he devised and conducted, was released in 2007 with Sony BMG.

In 2004 Ian was invited to conduct English Touring Opera's 25th anniversary production of *Le nozze di Figaro* (which he previously conducted at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall), and further conducting engagements have ranged from Handel's *Poro, re dell'Indie* to Kagel's *Variété* (at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival). He was invited to devise and conduct 'Studio Nights' on Poulenc and Britten for English National Opera, and is a professor at the Royal College of Music, where he has conducted a wide range of operatic scenes, including works by Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi, Puccini, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Janacek and Britten. Despite his specialization in the classical period he is equally at home in the operas of Handel and Britten and the symphonies of Beethoven and Sibelius.

In October 2009 he made his Royal Opera House debut, conducting a new production of Arne's *Artaxerxes* in his own new performing edition, and the following month he made a studio recording of the work, which will be released on Linn Records in October 2010. This will be the first in an ongoing series of recordings. Other forthcoming plans include a Gluck retrospective at Wigmore Hall, and in summer 2010 he conducts his new completion of Mozart's *Zaide* at Sadler's Wells and Buxton Festival, in an eagerly-awaited production by Melly Still.