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ANTONY WALKER

Conductor

As the recently appointed **Music Director** of **Pittsburgh Opera**, Antony Walker enjoys the distinction of serving as one of the youngest music directors of a regional company in the United States. Mo. Walker made his professional conducting debut in 1992 in Sydney, Australia, and has since that time conducted **52 operas**, **47 large scale choral/orchestral works** and numerous **symphonic** and **chamber works** with companies in **Europe**, the **United States** and **Australia**. He has led operatic performances for **Welsh National Opera**, **Opera Australia**, **Teatro Comunale di Bologna**, **Rome Opera**, **The Minnesota Opera**, **New York City Opera**, **Hawaii Opera Theater**, and **Cincinnati Opera**. He has also appeared with leading orchestras which include **Sydney Symphony Orchestra**, **Orchestra of Welsh National Opera**, **Sydney Opera House Orchestra**, the **BBC National Orchestra of Wales**, **Melbourne Symphony Orchestra**, **Adelaide Chamber Orchestra**, **Barossa Festival Orchestra**, **Sinfonia Australis**, **Orchestra of the Antipodes** and **Chatham Baroque**. Mr. Walker makes his operatic and orchestral debuts in upcoming seasons with **Opera Theater of St. Louis**, **Glimmerglass Opera**, **Arizona Opera**, and **Orchestre Colonne** in Paris.

A prolific recording artist, Mo. Walker has recorded **27 CDs** and **DVDs** of the works of Beethoven, Mahler, Mozart, Orff, Fauré, Puccini, Verdi, Purcell, Handel, Bach, and others. His CD collaboration with Teddy Tahu Rhodes garnered the **ARIA** award for **Best Classical Music Album of 2004** and his DVD of the **Emperor Concerto**, on CD as part of the complete set of the **Beethoven Piano Concertos Nos. 1-5**, won the international **DVD Association Award for Music Excellence for 2005**. Releases of Handel's *Semele* and Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* each won high praise in the esteemed International Record Review

Acknowledged for his incisive interpretation and execution of the varied repertoire he has performed and recorded, as well as his exceptional reading of new works, Mo. Walker has led acclaimed performances of operas ranging from the works of Monteverdi to Ruders, Glass and Petitgirard. Operatic repertoire performed comprises *Così fan tutte*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *La Traviata*, *The Queen of Spades*, *Mitridate*, *Idomeneo*, *Dardanus*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *I Pagliacci*, *Carmina Burana*, *La Bohème*, the North American Premiere of *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Nixon in China*, *Joseph Merrick*, *the Elephant Man*, *Vanessa*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Il Ritorno D'Ulisse in Patria* (with orchestra on period instruments), *Roméo and Juliette*, *La Cenerentola*, *Tosca*, *Orlando*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, *Faust*, and others. As **Artistic Director** of **Washington Concert Opera**, Mr. Walker has cast and conducted highly applauded performances of under-performed operatic works such as *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, *Stiffelio*, *Roberto Devereux*, *La Donna del Lago*, *Esclarmonde*, *Luisa Miller*, *Orlando* and *Tancredi*. As **Co-Artistic Director** of **Pinchgut Opera**, he has led baroque and early works including *Semele*, *The Fairy Queen*, *L'Orfeo*, *Dardanus* and, most recently, *Idomeneo* with Sinfonia Australis and the Orchestra of the Antipodes (on period instruments).

Trained as a cellist, Mo. Walker developed an understanding of orchestral music at an early age and has since conducted and recorded much of orchestral and chamber works repertoire. Repertoire performed includes Beethoven *Symphony Nos. 2, 4, and 9*; *the Triple Concerto, Opus 56*; Mahler's *Symphony No. 4*; Brahms' *Symphony No. 3*; Saint-Saëns *Organ Symphony*; Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*; Tchaikovsky's *Roméo et Juliette Fantasy-Overture*; Prokofiev's *Roméo et Juliette*; Rachmaninoff's *Variation on a Theme by Paganini*; Dvorak's *Serenade for Strings* and the *Cello Concerto*; Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto*; Mendelssohn's *Incidental Music from A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Symphony No. 29* of Mozart and the *Haffner*; along with the works of Sibelius, Strauss, Weber, Williams, and others. Recent performances include Falkenberg's *Edge of the World* and Beethoven's *Triple Concerto*, the World Premiere of Falkenberg's Piano Concerto, Beethoven's *5th Symphony*, Brahms's *Hungarian Dances*, and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*.

As a former tenor, Mo. Walker's understanding of the human voice has contributed to a particularly successful experience with vocal soloists and choral performers. As **Musical Director** of **Sydney Philharmonia Choirs** from 1993 to 1997, Mo. Walker led many large-scale works including Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and *St Matthew Passion*, Berlioz' *Roméo et Juliette* and Britten's *War Requiem*. He returns regularly to Sydney Philharmonia as guest conductor, where, most recently, he conducted Janacek's *Glagolitic Mass* and the world premiere of Nigel Butterley's *Spell of Creation*.

Mo. Walker is the recipient of the distinguished **Sir Charles Mackerras Conducting Award**, the Churchill Fellowship and the Queen's Trust Award.

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Conductor

DIRECTORSHIPS

Music Director, Pittsburgh Opera present
Artistic Director, Washington Concert Opera, 2002-present
Co-Artistic Director, Pinchgut Opera, 2002 -present
Conductor and Chorus master, Welsh National Opera, 1998-2002
Music Director, Cantillation & Sinfonia Australis, 2001-present
Music Director, Orchestra of the Antipodes, 2002 - present
Musical Director, The Contemporary Singers, 1987-present
Musical Director, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, 1993-1997
Musical Director, Sydney Philharmonia Orchestra, 1992-1997
Artistic Committee, Fourth World Choral Symposium, 1996

AWARDS

DVDA Award/Music Excellence in DVD (Emperor Concerto), 2005
ARIA Award/Best Classical Music Album (The Voice), 2004
Sir Charles Mackerras Conducting Award, 1997 (inaugural)
Churchill Fellowship, 1995
Queen's Trust Award, 1995
Australian Music Foundation (London) Scholarship, 1995