



Antony Walker Conductor

Acis and Galatea/Dido and Aeneas, Opera Australia
...“In both operas, conductor Antony Walker and the Orchestra of the Antipodes generated brisk tempos, incisive rhythms and gleaming sonorities...”
Murray Black, *The Australian* 29 June 2009

“Antony Walker leads the Orchestra of the Antipodes through a performance of heavenly richness, gracefully drawing out the shifting sonorities and sombre beauty of Charpentier’s score.”
Sarah Noble, *The Opera Critic*, December 03, 2008

The Handmaid’s Tale Minnesota Opera
“Antony Walker conducted a vibrant performance”
Anthony Tommasini, *New York Times* - May 14, 2003

In addition to continuing his association with Washington Concert Opera and Pinchgut Opera, Antony Walker is Music Director of Pittsburgh Opera marking a significant milestone in an already impressive career as an opera music director.

Born in Sydney and now resident in Washington, USA, Antony is at the forefront of a new generation of Australian musicians, having established a reputation for artistic excellence in direction and performance both in Australia and internationally. He is equally at home with opera, symphonic, choral and chamber repertoire of all periods and has an extensive discography.

Antony studied at the University of Sydney, was an Opera Australia Young Artist, became Musical Director of both the Contemporary Singers and Sydney Philharmonia Choirs and after an engagement as Chorusmaster and staff conductor at Welsh National Opera, relocated to the United States.

Since 2002 when he was appointed Artistic Director and Conductor of Washington Concert Opera, his engagements have included the North American premieres of *The Handmaid’s Tale* and Petitgirard’s *The Elephant Man*, *Nixon in China* (Minnesota Opera), Handel’s *Orlando* and *Semele* (New York City Opera), *Così fan tutte* and *Tosca* (Hawaii Theatre Opera), *Il ritorno d’Ulisse in patria* (Pittsburgh Opera), *Romeo et Juliette*, *La Cenerentola* (Sugar Creek Festival), *Vanessa* (Chautauqua Opera), *Orlando*, *Tancredi*, *Il Tabarro*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Esclarmonde*, *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, *Stiffelio*, *Roberto Devereux* and *La donna del lago* (Washington Concert Opera), and *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Glimmerglass Opera).

He returned to Opera Australia in 2007 to conduct *Alcina* in their Melbourne Spring Season and *Messiah* with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Other works he has conducted for this company include *Tales of Hoffmann*, *Faust*, *Hansel and Gretel*, and *The Magic Flute*. For Pinchgut Opera Antony has conducted *Semele*, *The Fairy Queen*, *Orfeo*, *Dardanus* and *Idomeneo*. Concerts include a tour in Sydney and Melbourne with Emma Kirkby, Cantillation and Orchestra of the Antipodes for *Musica Viva*, and performances as Musical Director of Sydney Philharmonia Choirs include Mendelssohn *Elijah*, Mozart *Requiem*, Bach *Mass in B Minor* and *St Matthew Passion*, Berlioz *Roméo et Juliette*, Janacek *Glagolitic Mass*, Britten *War Requiem* and the world premiere of Nigel Butterley’s *Spell of Creation*.

With over 20 recordings in his discography, recently-released CDs include *Idomeneo*, (Pinchgut Opera); Baroque Duets with Sara Macliver and Sally-Anne Russell (winner of the inaugural 2005 ARIA people’s choice award), *Ye Banks and Braes* - a collection of folk songs with Cantillation and *Magnificat* with Emma Kirkby and Orchestra of the Antipodes.

Antony Walker’s Manager Worldwide is Graham Pushee: graham@artsmanagement.com.au
July 2010

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Antony Walker has received a number of awards including the ARIA Award for best Classical Music Album 2004, Sir Charles Mackerras Conducting Award 1997, Churchill Fellowship 1995, Queen's Trust Award 1995 and the Australian Music Foundation (London) Scholarship 1995.

Recent engagements include *Aida* and *Samson and Dalila* (Pittsburgh), *Madama Butterfly* (Arizona Opera and Opera Theatre of St Louis), and Beethoven's *Leonore* for Washington Concert Opera, *Carmen* for Vancouver Opera, *La bohème*, *Italian Girl in Algiers*, *Eugene Onegin*, and *Falstaff* for Pittsburgh Opera and in Australia, *David and Jonathan* for Pinchgut Opera, *Dido & Aeneas/Acis and Galatea* for Opera Australia and concerts for Orchestra Victoria.

2010 engagements include *Lucia di Lammermoor* for ENO, *Carmen* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* for Pittsburgh Opera, *Maria Stuarda* for Canadian Opera Company in Toronto, *La Cenerentola* for Washington Concert Opera and *Madama Butterfly* for Santa Fe Opera.

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