



## Mark Shiell Conductor

....I was admirably positioned..to savour Shiell's extraordinarily communicative face and body language....exhilarating..ebullient...engrossing and rewarding...I have never enjoyed a *Così* more than this one.

- David Gyger (Opera Opera, December 2004)

..Mark Shiell - sensitive to balance and subtlety of colour directed..excellent performances.....an alluring revelation of infrequently heard and, in some cases, new repertoire.

- David Vance (Sydney Morning Herald, November 2005)

Without question, Mark is the most naturally gifted conductor I have ever met. For him conducting is not just a calling, it's what he was born to do.....He conveys a freshness and a joy in making music that reminds us of what it's really all about.

- Graham Abbott, Conductor

Mark began his musical studies as a flautist. At the age of 16 he was invited to play Mozart's Concerto in D major with the 'Philharmonia of Melbourne' and also played Mozart's Concerto for flute and harp with Marshall McGuire, harp and the Ballarat Symphony Orchestra. He moved to Melbourne to study at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, winning the Woodwind Section of the Musical Society of Victoria's 'Hepzibah Menuhin Musical Awards'.

He graduated in 1992 from the Victorian College of the Arts with the 'Gwen Nisbett Award for Outstanding Musical Achievement'. Formal conducting studies began with Graham Abbott through Monash University and Mark has recently completed his Masters in Conducting with John Hopkins at Melbourne University.

In late 2003 Mark conducted the premiere, season and ABC recording of Matthew Hindson's new opera on the life of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, *Love, Death, Music and Plants*.

2004 included performances with the Victorian Youth Symphony Orchestra, Frankston Symphony Orchestra, Ballarat Symphony Orchestra, Zemann Memorial Orchestra, Monash Chorale and - as principal conductor - the Melbourne University Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Other performances in 2004 included conducting the Australian premiere of Don Freund's *Life of the Party – A concerto for bassoon and 16 friends* with international soloist Kim Walker at the International Double Reed Society Conference and conducting performances of a new opera by Melbourne composer Martin Greet. Mark conducted for the film score of the Australian film, *You and Your Stupid Mate*.

On his return from conducting *Così fan Tutte* in Sydney with Director Patrick Nolan and the Conservatorium's Postgraduate Opera Department, Mark was awarded a special encouragement award at the Melbourne International Festival from the Brian Stacey Memorial Trust to acknowledge his work as an emerging Australian Conductor. In 2005 he returned to the Sydney Conservatorium to direct the Modern Music Ensemble.

Mark has been the principal conductor of Melbourne University's New Audience Ensemble and in 2005 also worked at Melba Conservatorium conducting their mid-year production and once again worked with the Ballarat Symphony, Frankston Symphony, Zemann Memorial Orchestra and the Monash Chorale.

Mark Shiell's Manager Worldwide is Graham Pushee: [graham@artsmanagement.com.au](mailto:graham@artsmanagement.com.au)

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# ArtsManagement

July 2005 saw the first performances of the Melbourne New Orchestra of which Mark is a Co-Founder, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. An independently run orchestra featuring students of tertiary age from across Melbourne, MNO has already offered many opportunities to many emerging musicians. Committed to an environment that combines excellence with the joy of making and sharing music, this orchestra performed in the 'Morning Melodies' Series at the Melbourne Concert Hall (as part of the Stacey Concert), at the International Brass Festival accompanying International Guest Soloists in a program of contemporary concertos and at their official debut concert at BMW Edge Federation Square. MNO was invited to do their own 'Morning Melodies' Concert in the Concert Hall in 2006.

Sought after as both a conductor and a tutor Mark conducted one of the orchestras at the 2006 Melbourne Youth Music Summer School. Later that year he attended the Moscow Symphony Orchestra Conducting Mastercourse led by Vladimir Pontin and travelled to Japan to conduct the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, who invited him to return in 2007.

Mark also continued his highly successful series of orchestra introductions for ABC Television Arts Program in 2006. 2007 also saw Mark's debut with Sydney Symphony Sinfonia, in a highly successful regional tour and a series of Education Program schools concerts in Sydney.

Last year, in addition to returning to Sydney Symphony and Melbourne Youth Orchestra Summer School, he made his debut with West Australian Symphony, with Melbourne Symphony in their Classic Kids and Classic Family programs, and with Victorian Opera in their Youth Opera production, *The Happy Prince*.

In 2009 Mark conducted the opera *Avatar* in Melbourne, music education concerts with the Sydney Symphony and the State Music Camp in Victoria, as well as Canberra Symphony and the orchestras of both the University of Melbourne and Monash University.

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