



## 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

Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1971 in the Victorian town of Ouyen Mark Shiell was ten when he took up the flute. In 1984 he began conducting lessons with a former student of Sir Adrian Boult. In 1987 he played his first concerto with the Philharmonia of Melbourne in performances of Mozart's D major concerto. In 1988 he moved to Melbourne to commence study at the Victorian College of the Arts where he later won the 'Gwen Nisbett Award' for Outstanding Musical Achievement. In 2001 he continued conducting studies firstly with Graham Abbott through Monash University and then completing a Master of Music in Conducting with Professor John Hopkins at Melbourne University.

Winner of the '2005 Brian Stacey Award for Emerging Conductors' Mark Shiell has been described as one of Australia's brightest conducting stars.

In 2006 he worked for the first time in Japan with Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa. He returned in 2007 for acclaimed performances which included the Korean Childrens' Chorus. In 2007 he also conducted his first performances with the Sydney Sinfonia with whom he toured the Riverina region of NSW. He will once again work with the Sinfonia in 2008.

In 2008 Mark will be working with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Victorian Opera and the Sydney Sinfonia. As a result of winning the 2008 Welsford Smithers Travelling Scholarship he will travel to St. Petersburg on 3 occasions for further study at the International Academy of Advanced Conducting and at the Peter the Great Music Academy.

# ArtsManagement

## Further Highlights:

### New Music

- Conducts first concert with Sydney-based Halcyon Ensemble in 2005. Has worked with Halcyon every year since in works by composers including Saariaho, Berkeley, Ades, Field, Page, Butterly, Benjamin, Unsuk Chin and others.
- Conducted new operas including the premiere, and ABC recording of Matthew Hindson's opera, "*Love, Death, Music and Plants*". Co-conducted 'Chamber Made Opera' production of Nicholas Vine's "*The Hive*."
- Conducted performance of Don Freund's '*Life of the Party for Bassoon and 16 friends*' at International Double Reed Society Reed Convention with soloist Kim Walker, bassoon.

### Youth and Community

Mark Shiell is in great demand as a conductor of youth and community orchestras – arenas he considers vital for the future of classical music and for the training of young conductors and instrumentalists.

#### **Artistic Director and Principal Conductor**

Frankston Symphony Orchestra 2003 – 2006

Monash Chorale 2005 -2008

Performances with Zelman Memorial Orchestra, Ballarat Symphony Orchestra, Barrier Reef Orchestra, Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra, Melbourne Youth Orchestra, Stonnington Symphony Orchestra, Glenhaven Festival Orchestra, Tamworth Orchestra Festival, Sydney Conservatorium Modern Music Ensemble.

Conducting 'Cosi fan Tutte' for the Sydney Conservatorium's Postgraduate Opera department.

Melbourne University Faculty of Music Orchestral Director in 2006 and 2007.

Conductor of the 'Shiell Orchestra' at the Melbourne Youth Music Summer School in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

The culmination of his commitment to youth music saw him co-found and become the principal conductor of the Melbourne New Orchestra. MNO, which drew musicians from tertiary institutions in Melbourne and beyond performed in the Melbourne Concert Hall, BMW Edge Theatre, Melba Hall and at the Melbourne International Festival of Brass.

Travel to Moscow in 2005 to participate in an International Mastercourse with Vladimir Ponkin from the Tchaikovsky Conservatorium. He was invited by Maestro Ponkin to conduct further performances with his orchestra in Kuban.