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## Richard Gill Conductor

"Perhaps it's just as well that Leonard Bernstein is dead. Otherwise he'd probably have to relinquish his great reputation as a musical educator- or at least share it with Sydney's Richard Gill."

John Carmody, *The Sun Herald*

Richard Gill is one of Australia's pre-eminent and most admired conductors and is internationally respected as a music educator, specialising in opera, musical theatre and vocal and choral training. Richard's work in developing young musicians and creating opportunities for them is recognised world-wide. He is Music Director of Victorian Opera and also Artistic Director of the Education Program for the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He has been Artistic Director of OzOpera, Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, and the Adviser for the Musica Viva In Schools program.

His work in the concert hall is extensive and includes concerts with all the major Australian orchestras, Sydney Philharmonia, Canberra Symphony Orchestra as well as the Australian, Sydney, and Western Australian Youth Orchestras. For the Sydney Symphony he regularly conducts their *Meet the Music* concerts, *Discovery* concerts with the Sydney Symphony Sinfonia, and *Sinfonietta* concerts.

Richard regularly conducts for Opera Australia and his repertoire includes *Julius Caesar*, *The Love for Three Oranges*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, the world premiere of Moya Henderson's *Lindy*, Gounod's *Faust*, *The Gondoliers*, *The Eighth Wonder*, *Macbeth*, *La forza del destino*, *Rigoletto*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Il trovatore*, *Romeo et Juliette*, *Pericote*, *The Merry Widow*, *Fidelio*, *Turandot*, *Pearl Fishers*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Monteverdi's *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* in a double bill entitled 'Baroque Masterworks'; for Oz Opera, *The Barber of Seville*, *La bohème*, *Carmen*, and *The Magic Flute*; for Opera Queensland he has conducted *The Magic Flute* and *The Marriage of Figaro*.; and for Victorian Opera, *Noyes Fludde*, *The Snow Queen*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Metamorphosis*, and in concert, *St John Passion*.

Music theatre repertoire includes *Brundibar* (Windmill Performing Arts), the world premiere of Jonathan Mills' *The Ghost Wife* at the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts, Adelaide Festival, Sydney Festival and London Barbican, *Eternity Man* for Sydney Festival. *The World's Biggest Singing Lesson* at the UWA Perth International Arts Festival and *Sing Your Own Opera* at the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts. He also acted as Chairman of the Jury for the ABC/OA Operatunity OZ project 2005/06.

He has held several important posts including Dean of the West Australian Conservatorium of Music (1985-1990) and Director of Chorus at the Australian Opera (1990-1996). During the course of his career, Richard has received numerous accolades, including an Order of Australia Medal, the Bernard Heinze Award for Services to Music in Australia, an Honorary Doctorate from the Edith Cowan University of Western Australia for his service to Australian music and musicians, and the Australian Music Centre's award for 'Most Distinguished Contribution to the Presentation of Australian Composition by an Individual'. In December 2005 Richard was awarded the prestigious Don Banks Award 2006 by the Australia Council.

2007 engagements included the Stravinsky double bill *Les Noces/Oedipus Rex*, *Sing Your Own Opera*, *The Snow Queen*, and *Così fan tutte* on a regional tour, all for Victorian Opera, the Brisbane and Melbourne seasons of Richard Mills' new opera *The Love of the Nightingale*; *Meet the Music*, *Tea with Symphony*, and the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday concert in Tamworth for Sydney Symphony

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Orchestra; the Discovery series of concerts with Sydney Symphony Sinfonia; a regional tour with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra; *St. John Passion* with The Queensland Orchestra, and *Messiah* with The Queensland and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras.

In 2008, Richard conducts the *Meet the Music* and *Discovery Series*, and *Sinfonietta* Concerts, all for Sydney Symphony; *Mozart's Requiem* with Sydney Chamber Choir; and for Victorian Opera, Puccini – *The Sacred and Profane*, *Through the Looking Glass*, *The Coronation of Poppea* and *The Happy Prince*. He continues his association with young musicians, at the 2008 Australian Youth Orchestra National Music Camp, and the Young Composers workshops at the University of Melbourne.

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