



Roland Peelman Conductor

Samson et Dalila Opera Queensland
"The music consistently engages the senses - or at least it did on Saturday night, when conductor Roland Peelman had a significantly augmented Queensland Philharmonic
Deborah Jones *The Australian*, April 29 1997

Death and Resurrection Old Master Series The Song Company
"guided by the unfailing musical insight of Roland Peelman"
David Vance *The Sydney Morning Herald*, March 26 2001

Acclaimed musician of great versatility, Roland Peelman was born in Flanders, Belgium and has been active in Australia for 25 years as a conductor, pianist, artistic director and mentor to composers, singers and musicians alike.

He has received numerous accolades for his commitment to the creative arts in Australia and specifically for his 20-year directorship of The Song Company, during which the ensemble has grown into one of Australia's most outstanding and innovative ensembles. In Sydney, recognition has been consistent, receiving the NSW Award for "the most outstanding contribution to Australian Music by an individual" and named "musician of the year" by the Sydney Morning Herald's music critic in 2006. The following year, he was again featured as one of Sydney's top twenty musicians and most recently, he was included in the list of "The 100 Most Influential People in Sydney" published by *The Sydney Magazine* at the end of 2009. Under the heading 'the innovator' Peter McCallum, writing for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, praised Peelman as the mastermind behind new project such as *Kalkadunga Yurdu* as well as two of Sydney's "best moments" in music during 2009: the *Tenebrae III* dance collaboration to music by Gesualdo, and the Festival *Licht*, featuring music by the composer Karlheinz Stockhausen.

His overview and understanding of the music canon is unique. With a repertoire that includes the major classical works from Bach to Gershwin as well as a vast oeuvre of early music, be it Lassus, Monteverdi, Schütz or Purcell, Peelman is Australia's most innovative and versatile musical director. His passion for new music has been crucial to an ever growing repertoire of concert music as well as music theatre. Over the years Peelman has directed numerous recordings and premiere seasons of new operas such as *Black River*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Burrow*, *The Sinking of the Rainbow Warrior*, *Gauguin* to name just a few.

He has worked with most orchestras in Australia and has conducted an abundance of new work with specialist ensembles such as Sydney Alpha, Libra and Ictus (Belgium-Germany) and most regularly with Australia's leading new music group Ensemble Offspring. He is currently developing a project for performance in Guadalajara in October/November 2011.

He remains a regular guest at festivals in Australia and abroad and, with the Song Company, continues to develop new projects that intend to change and re-invigorate the nature of concert, both in form and content.

Roland Peelman's Manager in Australasia is Judith Alexander: judith@artsmanagement.com.au
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