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## Simon Hewett Conductor

*"The West Australian Symphony Orchestra performed beautifully under the direction of conductor, Simon Hewett, who led them expertly through a difficult score"*  
Australian Stage  
Falstaff November 2011

*"...Simon Hewett and the orchestra's fleet tempos, buoyant rhythms, sensitive phrasing and clearly defined textures generated vivacity and warmth..."*  
Murray Black, The Australian  
Cosi fan tutte September 2009

*"...a worthy and forceful interpretation of a masterpiece."*  
Sydney Morning Herald  
Otello July 2008

*"Simon Hewett as conductor – fantastic!"*  
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung  
Parzival November 2006

Simon Hewett is one of the most versatile conductors of his generation, moving with ease from masterpieces of the operatic repertory to the most demanding and uncompromising works by contemporary composers. Whether conducting *Otello* for Opera Australia (July 2008), a John Neumeier ballet premiere at the Baden Baden Festspielhaus (November 2006), or his frequent performances at the Hamburg State Opera and with Australia's Elision Ensemble, Hewett has gained a reputation for performances of stylistic fluency, emotional intensity and technical precision.

Simon Hewett studied clarinet and conducting at the University of Queensland, graduating with First Class Honours and a University Medal. At 19 he was the youngest ever finalist in the ABC Young Conductor of the Year Award, and conducted the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Hindemith's *Symphonische Metamorphosen*. In 1998 he was awarded a German Government Scholarship and studied operatic and symphonic conducting for 3 years at the Franz Liszt Hochschule für Musik in Weimar, Germany.

Since 1996 he has worked frequently with the Elision Contemporary Music Ensemble, touring with them to Korea in 1997, and Europe in 1998. He has performed with Elision at all of Australia's major festivals, premiering Richard Barrett's *Opening of the Mouth*, and Liza Lim's opera *Moon Spirit Feasting*. His CD of Richard Barrett's *Opening of the Mouth* with the Elision Ensemble was reviewed by the BBC Music Magazine upon its release as "a disc for the desert island," and was named by the same magazine 'Pick of the Month' in April 2000. He conducted *Moon Spirit Feasting* at the Hebbel Theatre (Berlin), the Zurich International Arts Festival, and Saitama Theatre (Tokyo) and in 2002 he led performances of John Roger's *Inferno* at the Brisbane Festival. A second CD with Elision, featuring music for ensemble by Chaya Czernowin, was released in 2003. He has conducted Elision in revivals of *Moon Spirit Feasting* for the Powerhouse Theater, and the Queensland Arts Festival, and in March 2008, he conducted the ensemble's critically acclaimed debut at the März Musik Festival in Berlin, in performances of a new work by Liza Lim, *Mother Tongue*.

Simon Hewett's Manager in Australasia is Graham Pushee: [graham@artsmanagement.com.au](mailto:graham@artsmanagement.com.au)  
assisted by Pontus Aleryd: [Pontus@artsmanagement.com.au](mailto:Pontus@artsmanagement.com.au)

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Telephone (+61 2) 9211 9422 Facsimile (+61 2) 9211 9466

# ArtsManagement

From 2002-03 Simon Hewett was a member of Opera Australia's Young Artists' Programme, and made his debut at the Sydney Opera house in October 2003, conducting Bizet's *Les Pecheurs du Perles*. He was immediately reengaged for performances of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in 2004. He firmly established his reputation with the national company when with 24 hours notice he replaced Richard Hickox for a performance of *Tosca* in 2005. He went on to conduct the remainder of the 2005 *Tosca* season to great acclaim. He has since returned to Opera Australia as a guest conductor for *Turandot* (2006), and to lead the revival of Harry Kupfer's critically acclaimed production of *Otello* (2008). He returned to Sydney in 2009 for *Aida*, and a new production of *Così fan Tutte* with director Jim Sharman. Future engagements in Australia include *Macbeth* for Opera Australia, *Falstaff* for the West Australian Opera, and concerts with Orchestra Victoria.

In 2005 Simone Young invited Simon Hewett to join the Hamburg State Opera as Kapellmeister (Resident Conductor). In this capacity he has conducted over 150 performances of opera and ballet, including *La Traviata*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Tri Sestri* (with Martyn Brabbins), *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, *Tosca*, *La Bohème*, *Haensel und Gretel*, *Il Turco in Italia*, *Parzival*, *Orpheus*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Cinderella*, *Silvia*, *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *Die Kleine Meerjungfrau*. Simon Hewett's debut at the Komische Oper in 2008 conducting *Der Barber von Sevilla* was followed by an immediate reinvitation to conduct *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* in 2010.

As a symphonic conductor Simon Hewett has appeared with the Queensland Symphony, Sydney Symphony and West Australian Symphony Orchestras. As a student he conducted the Queensland Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Youth Chamber Orchestra, the Sydney Youth Orchestra, the University of Queensland Symphony, and the Weimar Kammerphilharmonie. During his studies in Germany he also appeared with the Jena Philharmonie and the Thuringian Philharmonie. In January 2009 he debuted with the Brandenburg Symphoniker, to whom he will return for more concerts in 2011.

Since conducting the premiere of John Neumeier's *Parzival* at the Baden Baden Festspielhaus in 2006, Simon Hewett has enjoyed a close and productive collaboration with the Hamburg Ballet. He has toured with the Hamburg Ballet to Japan (February 2009), and he has conducted Neumeier's productions of Mahler's 7<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Symphonies at the Hamburg State Opera, and the Paris Opera (Bastille) respectively. Simon Hewett has been Principal Conductor with the Hamburg Ballet since the beginning of the 2009/10 season. 2009 saw him revive Neumeier's production of Mahler's 3<sup>rd</sup> Symphony in Hamburg, and premiere *Orpheus* (music by Stravinsky) which he will conduct again at the Spoleto Festival in 2010.

2012 engagements will include *Salome* and *The Marriage of Figaro* (Opera Australia), *Die Kleine Meerjungfrau*, *Purgatorio – Mahler Symphony No. 10*, *Sommernachtstraum* and *Liliom* (Hamburg State Opera), *Juwelen der Neuen Welt II* (Vienna State Opera), *Die Fledermaus* and *Tosca* (Stuttgart Opera).

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