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Sebastian Lang-Lessing Conductor

The Merry Widow, Los Angeles Opera

"Much of the performance's sophistication and sensuality comes from the pit. Lang-Lessing gets a rich, creamy sound from the orchestra, which plays beautifully all night. He conducts Lehár's waltzes and flirtatious melodies as knowingly multi-layered as Mahler."

Mark Swed
Los Angeles Times

Carmen, San Francisco Opera

"Conductor Sebastian Lang-Lessing plunged the audience into the overture with unrelenting vehemence. The forceful interpretation created the momentum that undergirded most of the drama. In one of the brief interludes, the third act entracte, the orchestra created an ethereal, shimmering quality, before shifting back to the dynamic, driving thrust of the central story. This approach is both unusual and interesting. Lang-Lessing conducted with great vitality and authority and the orchestra played impressively for him."

Olivia Stapp
San Francisco Classical Voice

Sebastian Lang-Lessing is Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. He was Music Director of the Orchestre Symphonique de Nancy from 1999 to 2006. He served for eight years as Conductor in Residence at Deutsche Oper Berlin at the invitation of Götz Friedrich, and his relationship with that company enabled him to build a wide repertoire and work with internationally renowned singers and stage directors.

Sebastian Lang-Lessing studied conducting at the Hamburg State Conservatory. After being awarded the Ferenc Fricsay Prize in Berlin he worked as assistant conductor at Hamburg State Opera then as First Kapellmeister at Rostock Opera.

His international career began in Paris at the Opéra Bastille, where he later returned for two productions. In 1997 Sebastian Lang-Lessing made his American debut at Houston Grand Opera and first conducted the San Francisco Opera during the 2005-06 season. In Europe he has worked regularly at opera houses including Oslo Opera, Hamburg State Opera and Stockholm Royal Opera. Upcoming operatic engagements include a return to San Francisco Opera, his debut with Los Angeles Opera and a return to Houston Grand Opera. This year he will conduct a new production of *Falstaff* in Italy with Ruggiero Raimondi.

Sebastian Lang-Lessing is an active symphonic conductor and has led major orchestras all over the world. He has released numerous CDs with the TSO on ABC Classics, including: a complete set of the Schumann Symphonies, a disc of Romantic overtures and music for piano and orchestra by Saint-Saëns and Franck with Duncan Gifford. His discography also includes a world premiere recording of the complete symphonies by Guy Ropartz. Recording projects include the complete Mendelssohn symphonies with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and a CD with works by Australian composer Brett Dean.

As music director of Opéra Nationale de Nancy, he has led *Tristan und Isolde*, *Tannhäuser*, *Flying Dutchman*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Arabella*, *Fidelio*, *Der Freischütz*, *Wozzeck*, *Jenůfa*, *Peter Grimes*, *Carmen*, *Manon Lescaut*, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*. In 2006 the French government recognised his work with L'Orchestre Symphonique de Nancy and Opéra de Nancy by awarding him national status.

In addition to concerts around Tasmania, Sebastian Lang-Lessing directs an annual Sydney Season with the TSO at the City Recital Hall and has led the orchestra on a tour of Japan as part of Asian Orchestra Week. In 2006 he also initiated a series of performances at the Port Arthur Historic Site.