



Simone Young AM Conductor

Katya Kabanova

"Conductor Simone Young summons a reading of shattering vehemence and power from the (Royal Opera House) orchestra on matchless form, the score's glowing humanity rendered rich in detail, its emotional drive sustained to the bitter end upon a single arc of gripping intensity."

David Blewitt

The Stage, UK November 2000

Australian-born Simone Young is internationally recognised as one of the leading conductors of her generation. In August 2005 she took up the post of General Manager and Music Director of the Hamburg State Opera and Music Director of the Philharmonic State Orchestra Hamburg and has already had a number of successes outstanding reviews for *Simon Boccanegra*, *Tristan und Isolde* and *Mathis der Maler* as well as a number of orchestral concerts. The contract with Hamburg has now been extended until 2015. This is the first time a woman has held European opera posts at this level. She was Music Director of Opera Australia 2001-2003 and Chief Conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra from 1999-2002.

Her operatic repertoire is extensive and covers a wide cross section of works. She is an acknowledged interpreter of the operas of Wagner and Strauss including *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, which she has conducted most recently to great acclaim at the Staatsoper in Berlin, and the Vienna Staatsoper. She is conducting a series of Strauss operas in Hamburg this season. She was the first woman conductor to conduct at the Vienna Staatsoper and at the Bastille, Paris.

The Vienna Staatsoper has been a major focus of her work for the last few years, with over twenty five productions, most recently a double bill of *Osud* and *Le Villi*, also including Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, *Lohengrin*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Salome*, *Peter Grimes*, *Tosca*, *Wozzek*, *Rigoletto* and *La Juive*. Other companies she has worked with include Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Metropolitan Opera in New York, the Bastille in Paris, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Los Angeles Opera and the Houston Grand Opera.

As an orchestral conductor she has worked with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, the Maggio Musicale in Florence, the ORF Radio Orchestra in Vienna, NDR Hanover, the NHK Symphony Orchestra in Japan, the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra, National Orchestre de Lyon and the Staatskapelle Dresden. In 2007 she made her London orchestral debut with the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducting two programmes.

In Australia the focus of her work during 2000-2003 was Opera Australia, where her opera and concert work with the Australian and Ballet Orchestra, and her development of musical standards in the Company received praise from the profession and the public alike. Productions conducted in Australia include *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, *Otello*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Lulu*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Tannhäuser*, *Falstaff*, *Don Carlos*, *Andrea Chenier*, *La bohème*, *Don Giovanni* and *Le nozze di Figaro* (from the fortepiano), *Katya Kabanova*, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Der Rosenkavalier* and *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci*. She has also conducted operas in the Sydney and Melbourne Festivals, and concerts with the Sydney, Melbourne and West Australian Symphony Orchestras. She agreed to appear with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as a guest conductor each year for four years, 2004-2007 and will work with that orchestra again in 2009. She has also worked regularly with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra with which she will conduct a program in 2008. In 2006 she also conducted a concert performance of *Salome* as part of the 2006 Brisbane Festival.

In 2007 Simone was elected to the Akademie der Künste in Hamburg, has been nominated as the Conductor of the Year by Opernwelt Magazine and has been awarded a Professorship at the Musikhochschule in Hamburg. Other Awards include Green Room Awards for her 1996 performances of *Die Frau ohne Schatten* at the Melbourne Festival, 2001 performances of *Tristan und Isolde* and 2003 performances of *Lulu*, the 2005 Helpmann Award for Best Classical Concert with the WA Symphony, the 2002 Helpmann Award for Best Musical Direction (*Andrea Chenier*) and the Australian Mo Award for "Classical Performer of the Year". She has received Honorary Doctorates from Monash University in 1998 and the University of New South Wales in 2001, and has been honoured with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from France. Her recording of Strauss songs with Steve Davislum and Orchestra Victoria was released by Melba Recordings in 2000. In 2004 she was nominated for a Grammy Award for her recording of *La Juive* and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2004 Australia Day Honours List. In 2005 she received the prestigious Goethe Institute Medal.