

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Gareth Jones

Conductor

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Gareth Jones began his conducting career in 1990 as a member of the Music Staff at Welsh National Opera. While there he conducted an extensive range of repertoire including *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Turandot*, *Nabucco*, *La Traviata*, *Ernani*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *Faust*, *La Bohème*, *Fidelio*, *Billy Budd*, *The Carmelites*, *Carmen*, *Kátya Kabanová*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *Jenufa*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Der Fliegende Hollander*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La Cenerentola*, *Die Zauberflöte* and *Hänsel Und Gretel*. In 2009 and 2010, Gareth conducted *Aida* at the Bregenz Festival. He has conducted *The Mikado* for Vancouver Opera and English National Opera and returned to the Royal Northern College of Music, his alma mater, in 2011 to conduct Barber's *Vanessa*. He conducted Philip Glass' *A Perfect American* for English National Opera in the UK première in 2013 and for Opera Queensland at the Brisbane Festival in 2014.

In 1996, Gareth formed Sinfonia Cymru which has established itself as Wales' premier chamber orchestra. Many prominent artists have worked with Gareth and the orchestra including Dennis O'Neill, Rebecca Evans, Simon Keenlyside, Joseph Calleja, Gwyn Hughes Jones, Jean Phillippe Collard, Peter Donohoe, David Pyatt, Michael Collins, Chloe Hanslip, Catrin Finch, Guy Johnston, Liwei Qin, Alina Ibragimova, Jiafeng Chen and Li?r Williams.

As a result of a highly acclaimed Gala concert given by Sinfonia Cymru in April 2000 with Sir Bryn Terfel, which included a performance of *Wotan's Farewell*, a bond has developed between Bryn, Gareth and the orchestra. Gareth has worked with Sir Bryn Terfel on numerous projects including the disc 'We'll Keep a Welcome', opera galas at the Faenol, Henley and Hampton Court Festivals and an S4C recording of Handel's *Messiah*. In addition Gareth has conducted more than seventy concerts worldwide with Sir Bryn, including his BBC Proms debut with Renée Fleming and Sir Bryn in works by Wagner and Strauss. In 2013 he toured Scandinavia with Sir Bryn for a concert series of an all-Wagner programme with orchestras including the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Helsinki Philharmonic. Gareth was conductor at Bryn's Faenol Festival where he worked with international singers such as Andrea Bocelli, Angela Gheorghiu, Rolando Villazon, Renée Fleming, Carlos Alvarez, Simon Keenlyside and Diana Damrau.

Concert work in the UK has included appearances with the Hallé, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Ulster Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra and the Manchester Camerata.

Highlights in 2015 included BBC Proms in the Park with the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales, Sir Bryn Terfel's 50th birthday celebration concert at the Royal Albert Hall with Sinfonia Cymru and a semi-staged concert performance of *Tosca* at the Wales Millennium Centre with Sir Bryn Terfel and the Orchestra and Chorus of Welsh National Opera. In 2016 Gareth conducted concerts at Henley Festival, Hungarian State Opera, Budapest, Festival of Voice in Cardiff and Llangollen International Eisteddfod. He joined Welsh National Opera's production of *Kiss Me Kate* last autumn and began this year with English National Opera's *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Future engagements include the opening concert at Upton House Music Festival and a semi-staged concert performance of *Tosca* at the Llangollen International Musical Festival with Sir Bryn Terfel and Kristine Opolais.

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