

Benjamin Bayl - Conductor



Benjamin Bayl's skill and flair for working with period ensembles, modern orchestras and opera houses has gained the support from many notable figures such as Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Ivor Bolton, Iván Fischer, Harry Bicket and Lars Ulrik Mortensen to name a few.

Engagements this season include a critically acclaimed *Ariodante* for English Touring Opera which followed debuts with Opera Australia (a new production of *Orlando*) and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Last year he conducted the Opening and Closing Ceremonies at Sydney's World Youth Day, in the presence of the Pope. Following the success of his debut with Symfoniorkesteren Norrlandsoperan last December, he was immediately re-invited for the 2010/11 season.

Benjamin's tenure as Assistant Conductor to the Budapest Festival Orchestra came to a close last season, and he was for four seasons Assistant Artistic Director to the Gabrieli Consort. Having conducted Handel's *Brookes Passion* at the Wratislavia Festival in Poland, Benjamin will return there next season.

He will be conducting The English Concert at the Lufthansa Baroque Festival in Spring 2011 and his next opera project will be *L'incoronazione di Poppea* in 2011/12 for the Nordic Early Opera Network.

Contemporary music also features in Benjamin's repertoire. He recently made his first commercial disc as a conductor, recording works of Hindemith with the Britten Sinfonia for Signum Classics, which was awarded 5 stars in the BBC Music Magazine. He also conducted the European premiere of Sir John Tavener's *Lament for Jerusalem* with the Orchestra of the City and has conducted works by Einojuhani Rautavaara, Elliott Carter, Judith Weir and Jonathan Dove.

He recently made his Spanish debut conducting Hita's *Briseida* at the Santiago Festival with La Grande Chapelle; and also made appearances with The King's Consort, Iford Opera, Bampton Classical Opera, Opera East, Gabrieli Consort and many concerts with Orchestra of the City as Music Director.

Benjamin has worked widely in the world of opera and oratorio as assistant conductor and has built up relationships with many important opera houses and conductors - most notably at Opéra National du Rhin, Strasbourg (*Jephtha* with Ivor Bolton), Copenhagen (*Partenope* with Lars Ulrik Mortensen), Sydney (*Giulio Cesare* with Richard Hickox), Teatro Real Madrid (*Tamerlano* with Paul McCreech), Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona (*Ariodante* and *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with Harry Bicket), Opéra Comique (*Carmen* with Sir John Eliot Gardiner), Palau Les Arts, Valencia (*1984* with Lorin Maazel) and several productions with Harry Christophers. He was recently assistant conductor for a new feature film of *Don Giovanni*.

He also assisted McCreech at Orquesta Nacional de España, Gran Canaria Philharmonic and Iceland Symphony Orchestra, and was Chorus Master at Opera Holland Park for two seasons. He has been on the music staff for numerous productions at both Covent Garden and ENO, and was also assistant conductor for British Youth Opera, making his conducting debut in the Queen Elizabeth Hall with Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

He founded and conducts the dynamic period instrument ensemble, The Saraband Consort. They recently made their Wigmore Hall debut and appeared in various festivals including the 'Martes Musicales' Vitoria and 'Aste Nagusia' Bilbao Festivals. He has worked extensively with Europe's foremost early music groups including The Gabrieli Consort, The Monteverdi Choir & English Baroque Soloists, HMSC, The King's Consort, The Sixteen, Staatskapelle Halle, Ex Cathedra and Concerto Copenhagen, as well as Polyphony, Northern Sinfonia, RPO, LSO & CBSO.

Benjamin Bayl studied at King's College Cambridge, where he was Organ Scholar. He is an alumnus of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, National Opera Studio, Schola Cantorum Basel and The Royal Academy of Music where he studied conducting with Colin Metters, Sir Colin Davis and George Hurst on the Sir Charles Mackerras Scholarship.