



David Charles Abell *conductor*



Born in North Carolina, David studied with Leonard Bernstein and Nadia Boulanger, gaining degrees from Yale University and the Juilliard School. Intensive study of viola, piano and composition gave way to a concentration on conducting from the age of fourteen.

David's recent projects have included *West Side Story* at Glimmerglass, *Rigoletto* and *Carmen* for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, *Porgy & Bess* and *Die Fledermaus* at Cincinatti Opera, *Eugene Onegin* at the Hawaii Opera Theatre and Barrie Kosky's production of *Die Zauberflöte* at Opera Philadelphia, as well as Kevin Puts' acclaimed *Silent Night* in Kansas City, Cincinatti and Michigan. In the UK, David also recently conducted his own new critical edition of *Kiss Me, Kate* for Opera North (for whom he has also conducted Rossini's *La gazza ladra*); in 2015, he made his debut with English National Opera for its production of *Sweeney Todd* (starring Bryn Terfel and Emma Thompson), returning in 2017 for an equally-acclaimed *Carousel*.

An established name in France, David has appeared regularly at the Théâtre du Châtelet, conducting French premieres of Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Into the Woods*, Porter's *Kiss Me Kate* (also in Luxembourg and for Glimmerglass) and Bernstein's *On The Town*; he has also conducted *Follies* at Opéra de Toulon, as well as recent concerts with the Orchestre National de Lyon, the Orchestre National d'Île de France the Orchestre Padeloup and the Orchestre de Cannes.

He has conducted many of the top British orchestras, including the London Philharmonic, BBC Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham, Bournemouth, Hallé and Royal Scottish National. His Royal Philharmonic Orchestra debut was the internationally-televised Tenth Anniversary Concert of *Les Misérables* (he also 25th Anniversary spectacular at the O2), and he has since appeared with the orchestra in repertoire ranging from Copland to Puccini to Kern (*Show Boat*, also in the Albert Hall). Other guest engagements include the Vienna Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Iceland Symphony and two concerts in Carnegie Hall conducting the New York Pops.

David made his BBC Proms debut conducting the BBC Concert Orchestra in a live telecast of Richard Rodgers' *Oklahoma!*. He has worked with the Orchestra on many other occasions, including a BBC Proms tribute to Stephen Sondheim and the premiere of Rachel Portman's *The Water Diviner's Tale*. His work with the BBC Symphony Orchestra includes a centenary concert for his mentor, Leonard Bernstein, at the Barbican in 2018. David is a regular guest conductor with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, which he has twice conducted for Proms in the Park (broadcast live on BBC television) with repertoire including Copland's *Third Symphony*. His performance with Peter Donohoe of the Gershwin *Concerto in F* from the same concert was featured in BBC Music Magazine. A much-respected face in the West End, David has regularly directed the Olivier Awards and was the first MD for Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Love Never Dies* at the Adelphi Theatre.

David's TV projects have included Rachel Portman's opera *The Little Prince* and *The Waltz King*, a drama/documentary about the Johann Strausses, father and son (both subsequently released on DVD), and the Châtelet production of *Sunday in the Park with George* (Mezzo TV). Recordings include *Something's Gotta Give* with baritone Simon Keenleyside, *Forever* with soprano Diana Damrau, Jonathan Dove's *Tobias and the Angel*, the musicals *Miss Saigon*, *Martin Guerre* and *Man of La Mancha* and highlights from *La Bohème* and *Madama Butterfly* with the Royal Philharmonic.

Future plans include *Sweeney Todd* in Zurich (again with Bryn Terfel), *Carousel* at the Volksoper in Vienna, and concerts for the RTE Concert Orchestra and with the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine. David is the Principal Guest Conductor for the prestigious Philly Pops.