



## Garry Walker

### Conductor

Scottish-born Garry Walker is currently Artistic Director of Conducting at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Chief Conductor of the Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie. He assumes the post of Music Director of Opera North from August 2020 and serves as Music Director Designate in the interim, opening the company's 19/20 season with a new David Alden production of Martinů *The Greek Passion*.

Garry studied cello (with Ralph Kirshbaum) and conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music, and was winner of the 1999 Leeds Conductors' Competition. He has held positions as Permanent Guest Conductor of Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Principal Guest Conductor of Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and Principal Conductor of Paragon Ensemble.

In the UK Garry Walker has worked with all the BBC orchestras, Hallé, London Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Philharmonia, City of Birmingham Symphony and National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. Chamber orchestras have included the Britten Sinfonia, Manchester Camerata, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra and Academy of St Martin in the Fields. His regular appearances at the Edinburgh International Festival have included notable performances of Mahler's Second Symphony, Kurtág's *Stele*, and MacMillan's *The Quickenings*, all with the RSNO.

Further afield Garry has worked with orchestras including the Gothenburg Symphony, Dortmund Philharmoniker, Orchestra dell'Opera Roma, Orchestre Philharmonique de Luxembourg, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Orchestra della Toscana, and makes his debut with the Aalborg Symfoniorkester in April. He has often conducted the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony, Tasmanian Symphony and Auckland Philharmonia, and engagements in the US have included those with the Utah Symphony and Asheville Symphony Orchestras.

During his tenure as Chief Conductor his many wide-ranging performances with the Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie have encompassed programmes of Ades, Beethoven, Bartók, Britten, Berio, Brahms, Dvorak, Haydn, John Williams, Kodály, Mahler, Mozart, Prokofiev, and many more. Together Garry and the orchestra made their Amsterdam Concertgebouw debut in 2018, resulting in an immediate reinviation for 2020.

An experienced opera conductor, Garry Walker conducted Janacek *The Cunning Little Vixen* for Garsington Opera in 2014, where he returned in 2018 for the critically acclaimed world premiere of Sawyer *The Skating Rink*. He has conducted both Britten *Curlew River* and the world première of Stuart MacRae's opera *The Assassin Tree* at the Edinburgh International Festival. He also conducted the MacRae at the Linbury Studio (Royal Opera House), David McVicar's much acclaimed new production of Britten *The Turn of the Screw* and Raskatov *A Dog's Heart* for English National Opera, Cimarosa *The Secret Marriage* for Scottish Opera, Poulenc *La Voix Humaine* at the Linbury Studio, and for Opera North Britten *Billy Budd* and a *Gianni Schicchi/The Rite of Spring* double-bill. On the continent he has conducted *The Curlew River* for Lyon Opera, and a new production by Calixto Bieito of Hosokawa *Hanjo* at the Ruhr Triennale.



Amongst the many international soloists with whom Garry Walker has collaborated are Maxim Vengerov, Sarah Chang, Jonas Kaufmann, Truls Mørk, Mischa Maisky, James Ehnes, David Geringas and Branford Marsalis.

His discography includes works by Havergal Brian and Matthew Taylor on Toccata Classics, Edward Harper on Delphian and Dvorak on Sony.