



## Guillaume Tourniaire

### Conductor

Born in Provence, Guillaume Tourniaire studied piano and conducting at Geneva's Conservatoire of Music. Fascinated by singing, he became Artistic Director of the vocal ensemble, Le Motet de Genève. He then was appointed Chorus Master at the Grand Théâtre de

Genève, where in 1998 he conducted his first opera production, Prokofiev's *Betrothal in a Monastery*. In that same year, he debuted at the Paris National Opera, conducting Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, with choreography by Pina Bausch. In 2001, he became Chorus Master at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice and in 2006, was appointed Musical Director of Prague's State Opera. In 2007, Guillaume Tourniaire conducted *The Pearl Fishers* on Teatro La Fenice's tour to Japan. In 2011, he began a highly active partnership with Sydney Opera House. In 2015 and 2016, in Melbourne, he received the "Green Room Award" in the "Best Conductor" category.

His fondness for unearthing works has led him to conduct numerous premieres and revive pieces neglected by the standard repertoire. For example, he recreated the complete musical score for Prokofiev's *Ivan the Terrible* working with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, recorded a world premiere of Arthur Honegger's *Song of Songs* and premiered Xavier Dayer's *Les Aveugles* with the Atelier Lyrique of the Paris National Opera. He conducted the premiere of Elena Kats-Chernin's *Heaven Is Closed* with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra; Matteo d'Amico's *Le Malentendu*, Marco Tutino's *Le Bel Indifférent* and Flavio Testi's *Saül* at the Macerata Opera Festival in the Sferisterio Arena; *Hélène* and *Nuit Persane* by Saint-Saëns with Melbourne's Orchestra Victoria; Louis Vierne's unpublished *Symphonic Poems* with Brisbane's Queensland Symphony Orchestra, and so on.

Other career highlights include Massenet's *Werther* (La Fenice), Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* (Opéra de Montréal), Gounod's *Faust* (Melbourne Opera), Bizet's *Pêcheurs de perles*, Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Opéra de Lille), *Le Songe d'une nuit d'été* by Ambroise Thomas (Wexford Festival Opera) and *Hamlet* by the same composer (Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège), *Così fan tutte* (Opéra de Dijon).

For the Sydney Opera House, Guillaume Tourniaire led *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Carmen*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Madama Butterfly*.

His extensive discography has received unanimous acclaim from the international press.

Accordingly, Tourniaire's world premiere of the complete incidental music to Grieg's *Peer Gynt* with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande received the 2005 "Diapason d'Or" Award, the "Grand Prix du Disque de l'Académie Charles Cros", a "Choc" from Le Monde de la Musique, "Five Stars" from the Guardian and "CD of the Month" from the Daily Telegraph.

Amongst the recordings he has made with the Australian label, Melba Recordings, the CD dedicated to *Symphonic Poems* with the voice of Louis Vierne – another world premiere – has been awarded a "Diamant d'Opéra Magazine", as well as "Editor's Choice" from Gramophone and BBC Classics.

With the B-Records label, Guillaume Tourniaire inaugurated, at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, a new "Geneva Live" collection with the premiere performance of the complete, original version of Camille Saint-Saëns's *Ascanio*, an opera in five acts and seven tableaux for which he received the most prestigious Jahrespreis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik.

Some of the musical institutions which have invited him include the Orchestre National de France, Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Rossini Opera Festival Orchestra in Pesaro, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège, Orchestre National de Lyon, Warsaw National Philharmonic Orchestra, Brisbane's Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Recent and upcoming projects include Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at Sydney Opera House, Léo Delibes's *Lakmé* at Opéra National du Rhin and Bizet's *Les Pêcheurs de perles* at Opéra de Saint-Etienne. Guillaume will pay tribute to the French composer Camille Erlanger with the world premieres of *L'Aube rouge* at the Wexford Festival Opera and *La Sorcière* at Victoria Hall in Geneva.