



## Nicholas Kok Principal Guest Conductor

Nicholas Kok is an extremely versatile conductor and musician. In the concert hall, the opera house and on radio he has conducted numerous world and British premieres, including works by Birtwistle, Holt, Maxwell Davies, Reich, Turnage and Xenakis. He is currently Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor to the leading contemporary music ensemble Psappha, with which he has recorded and toured extensively. From 1996 to 2006 he was Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of sinfonia ViVA, with which he performed a large and varied repertoire and is now the orchestra's Principal Guest.

For English National Opera he has conducted *Orfeo*, *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse*, *The Fairy Queen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *King Priam*, the world premieres Turnage *The Country of the Blind* and *Twice through the Heart* in a joint production with South Bank Centre and Aldeburgh Festival, and the world premiere of *Arion and the Dolphin*. He made his Opera North debut conducting the world premiere of Simon Holt's *The Nightingale's to Blame* at the Huddersfield Festival, where he also conducted the British premiere of *Hindenburg*, part one of a major work by Steve Reich. He returned to Opera North for new productions of Gluck *Orfeo*, Stravinsky *Les Noces* and Purcell *Dido and Aeneas*. Festivals at which he has appeared include Edinburgh, BBC Proms, Orkney, Cheltenham, Montepulciano and "Sound Around" in Copenhagen/Malmö.

Nicholas Kok made his debut at the Stuttgart Staatsoper conducting Purcell *King Arthur*, and returned for a new productions of *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and Gluck *Orphee* along with revivals of *Hänsel und Gretel*, and *L'italiana in Algieri*. For Cologne Opera he directed *Le Nozze di Figaro* and a new production of *Semele*, which he also directed in Graz. For Oper Leipzig he has conducted *Alceste* and *Iphigenie en Aulide*. In Lisbon he conducted Handel *Agrippina* at the Teatro Sao Carlos and in Klagenfurt highly acclaimed productions of Handel *Teseo* and Cavalli *Il Giasone*, and , in Porto, a new production of *L'Elisir d'Amore*.

He played a large part in setting up Almeida Opera for which he conducted *Mario the Magician* by Stephen Oliver. For Opera Factory London he conducted numerous productions including works by Xenakis and Osborne alongside *Poppea*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Magic Flute* and *Curlew River*. For Opera Factory Zürich he conducted *La Calisto* and Marschner *Der Vampyr*. For McKinsey/WDR/Arte he conducted the world premieres of Alexander Krampe's reworkings of Rousseau *Pygmalion* and Bizet *Carmen*.

Orchestras and ensembles he has worked with include the Philharmonia, London Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, City of Birmingham Symphony, Royal Scottish National, Radio Sinfonie Orchester Berlin, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Scottish Symphony, BBC Concert Orchestra, RTE National Symphony Ireland, Ulster Orchestra, Halle, Het Gelders Orkest, Munich Chamber Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Birmingham

Contemporary Music Group, Jenaer Philharmonie, Orchestra of St John's Smith Square and Orquestra Nacional do Porto.

Nicholas Kok works frequently with the BBC Singers with whom he has recorded an extensive repertoire. He has recorded for radio and television, and has written and arranged music for both mediums, as well as working as assistant/banda conductor on numerous recordings for Opera Rara and Chandos. He has worked closely with many choreographers (as conductor and arranger) and has conducted for Birmingham Royal Ballet including *Le Baiser de la Fee*, *Petrushka* and *The Firebird*; Scottish Ballet *Cinderella*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Sleeping Beauty* as well as three programmes at the Edinburgh Festival; and Stockholm Royal Ballet. He played the premiere of his own music for Scottish Dance Theatre's "Out of the House" performances, and the world premiere of his 7th Degree which was performed by Julian Bliss and ViVA, conducted by the composer.

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