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## ADAM TURNER CONDUCTOR



Currently in his sixth season as Artistic Director of Virginia Opera (following four seasons as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor), Maestro Adam Turner garners critical acclaim for the breadth of his repertoire, artistic vision, and polished technique. Of his performance of **Street Scene** with Virginia Opera, *Opera News* hailed the “sensitive conducting” of Adam Turner “who demonstrated an affinity for a score as stylistically diverse as the characters in the plot” and of his conducting of **Der Freischütz**, *Opera News* hailed: “Conductor Adam Turner ... ensured crackling rhythms as much as lyrical spaciousness, resulting in a performance that felt vital and spontaneous throughout.” In the 2023-2024 Season at Virginia Opera, Turner will be on the podium for productions of **Siegfried** and **Madama Butterfly**, in addition to leading workshops of the world-premiere commissioning of **Loving v. Virginia** by Damien Geter and Jessica Murphy Moo. Further appearances this season include his début with the Pacific Symphony for **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street**, a return to Toledo Opera conducting **Roméo et Juliette**, and Central City Opera’s **Street Scene**. Also this season, Turner will conduct Virginia Symphony’s *To Whitney with Love* featuring American Idol-finalist LaKisha Jones in a celebration of the great ladies of soul.

In recent seasons, he has conducted **Das Rheingold**, **Die Walküre**, **La bohème**, **Three Decembers**, **Le nozze di Figaro**, **The Pirates of Penzance**, **Fellow Travelers**, and **La Traviata** at Virginia Opera. Appearing with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra in the “POPS! Concert Series” he has led programs including “Never Break the Chain,” featuring the music of Fleetwood Mac, “Broadway Rocks,” and “Music of the Bee Gees.” He was also recently at the helm for Central City Opera’s productions of **Kiss Me, Kate** and **The Light in the Piazza**, Toledo Opera’s **Il trovatore**, as well as Portland Symphony Orchestra’s concert “Classical Broadway.”

In his inaugural season as Artistic Director of Virginia Opera, Maestro Turner conducted performances of **Street Scene**, **Don Giovanni**, **L’elisir d’amore**, and **Madama Butterfly**, in addition to Jack Perla’s **An American Dream**. Since then, he has conducted the company’s productions of **Der Freischütz**, **The Seven Deadly Sins**, **Pagliacci**, **La bohème**, **Samson et Dalila**, **A Midsummer Night’s Dream**, **Der fliegende Holländer**, **Il Postino**, **Aida**, and **Tosca**. On top of his productions at Virginia Opera, he conducted **The Seven Deadly Sins** for the Buffalo Philharmonic, **Eugene Onegin** with Intermountain Opera Bozeman, **Three Decembers** with San Diego Opera (with legendary mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade), and **Madama Butterfly** for Central City Opera. He also conducted the Virginia Symphony Orchestra’s “POPS! Concert Series” consisting of shows entitled “Queens of Soul,” “Music of Neil Diamond,” “Dancing & Romancing,” “Serpentine Fire: The Music of Earth, Wind, and Fire,” “Havana Nights with the Mambo Kings,” and “The Streisand Songbook” with Ann Hampton Callaway. He also collaborated with renowned conductor John DeMain on Washington National Opera’s production of Kurt Weill’s final stage composition **Lost in the Stars**, having been named inaugural recipient of the Julius Rudel/Kurt Weill Conducting Fellowship by the Kurt Weill Foundation in 2015.

Turner has earned a reputation for being a champion of new works, introducing Virginia Opera’s audiences to numerous Commonwealth premieres. He has also conducted the workshops of **If I Were You** by composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer, **The Halloween Tree** by composer Theo Popov and librettist Tony Asaro, **Biennale: A Comic Opera** by composer Paul Richards and librettist Wendy Steiner,



assisted in the world-première of Ricky Ian Gordon's American Civil War-inspired musical theatre masterpiece **Rappahannock County** (subsequently released on the Naxos label), and assisted composer David Carlson in Florida Grand Opera's world-première production of **Anna Karenina**.

Additional guest conducting engagements include: **Roméo et Juliette** at Lyric Opera Baltimore, **The Tender Land** at Northwestern University; **Three Decembers** with Hawaii Opera Theatre; Händel's *Messiah* with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra; a Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program Holiday Concert with Washington National Opera; **Sweeney Todd** at Hawaii Opera Theatre and Eugene Opera; **Le nozze di Figaro, Dead Man Walking, Carmen, La bohème, Man of La Mancha** and **Oklahoma!** with Central City Opera; **Don Giovanni, Le nozze di Figaro, Carmen, Brigadoon, My Fair Lady, Camelot**, and Britten's biblically inspired **Noye's Fludde** during his tenure as Resident Conductor at Ash Lawn Opera; and **H.M.S. Pinafore, Carmen, Ariadne auf Naxos, The Mikado, Carousel**, and **Camelot** for Virginia Opera.

During regular appearances with Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Richmond Symphony, Mr. Turner conducted Young People's Concerts and additional outreach activities. His leadership of Virginia Opera's annual "Opera in the Park" series, featuring both orchestras in their respective communities, reaches nearly 10,000 attendees across the Commonwealth of Virginia with a program of opera and popular hits, ensuring the next generation of prospective opera lovers, and bridging the gap between popular and classical music genres. He appeared in concert with singer-songwriter Bruce Hornsby, conducting the Virginia Symphony Orchestra at the 2018 Funhouse Fest, and has performed alongside singer-songwriter Ben Folds, conducting "The Orchestra Experience" during his tour stop in Virginia Beach. Additionally, Maestro Turner conducted at the David Oistrakh Festival in Estonia, featuring appearances with the St. Petersburg Festival Orchestra, Pärnu City Orchestra, and the Kaiserslautern Symphony Orchestra.

Turner first gained recognition at age 25 during his tenure at Stadttheater Pforzheim in Germany while taking over conducting responsibilities of a production of **Les Misérables**. *Musicals – Das Musicalmagazin*, Germany's premier musical theater publication lauded his work: "Les Mis reveals even here its magical effectiveness... The main reason for this is the performance of the orchestra, led by a young American conductor, Adam Turner, who brings to the piece a suspenseful drama that one does not always hear, even on the legendary, anniversary recording at the Royal Albert Hall. During the dramatic dialogues, he pushes the action forward but one is nonetheless able to understand every single word...he builds up the aria-like solos with great crescendos yet purposefully does not turn the first Thénardier-Song into a homely operetta number..." There, he also conducted Lehár's **Paganini** and Cole Porter's **High Society**.

Prior to his appointment as the youngest administrator in Virginia Opera's history, Turner proved he has a vision for the future of the industry as a member of the next generation of leaders while holding several administrative and music staff appointments at houses across the country including Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Central City Opera, Portland Opera, Tulsa Opera, Syracuse Opera, and Ash Lawn Opera. In these positions, Turner worked side-by-side with world-renowned maestri including Asher Fisch, Stuart Bedford, John DeMain, Gary Thor Wedow, and Broadway veteran Rob Fisher.

Turner holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Morehead State University, and a Master of Music degree from The Catholic University of America. He furthered his training with internationally acclaimed conductors and pedagogues Neeme Järvi, Paavo Järvi, Marin Alsop, Jorma Panula, Gustav Meier, Kenneth Kiesler, and Kate Tamarkin.

Current as of October 2, 2023