

BALMER & DIXON MANAGEMENT AG

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MATTHEW TOOGOOD, Conductor

Praised for his precision, transparency of sound, and empathy for musical drama, Matthew Toogood is an experienced opera conductor with a repertoire spanning from the earliest operas to world premieres.

Starting in the 2024-25 season, Toogood begins his position as First Kapellmeister at the **Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck**, conducting the premieres of Verdi's *Falstaff* and Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, as well as performances of Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* and Prokofiev's *Romeo et Julia*. In August 2024, he made his debut at in **Bayreuth**, presenting a lieder recital with Jordan Shanahan at the Villa Wahnfried, featuring the first-ever performance of Hawaiian songs in Bayreuth.

In the 2023-24 season, as a guest conductor at the **Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck**, he opened the season with Prokofiev's *Die Liebe zu drei Orangen*, directed by Jasmina Hadžiahmetović, and led the opening season concert. He also conducted the double-bill dance premiere of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* and Stravinsky's *Les noces*, choreographed by Edward Clug.

Between engagements in Tirol, Toogood staged and musically directed a sold-out performance of Menotti's *The Medium* with Fortitude Productions and collaborated with tenor Theo Ruster on a recital of Schubert's *Winterreise* at the Universität der Künste.

In December 2023, Toogood returned to the **Komische Oper Berlin** to conduct the revival of Offenbach's *Orpheus in der Unterwelt*, directed by Barrie Kosky and co-produced by the Salzburg Festival and Deutsche Oper am Rhein. He concluded the season by conducting the revival of Franz Wittenbrink's *Pippi Langstrumpf* at the Komische Oper Berlin, having conducted the world premiere in 2022. Previously for the Komische Oper Berlin, he collaborated with Elena Kats-Chernin for the 2017 rewriting of Monteverdi's *Die Krönung der Poppea*, directed by Barrie Kosky.

In 2021, Toogood conducted the Australian premiere of Will Todd's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* for the **Australian Contemporary Opera Company**.

During his tenure as First Kapellmeister and Musical Director of the Opera ad interim at the **Konzerttheater Bern** (2019-2021), he conducted the Swiss premiere of Szymanowski's *Król Roger*, debuted an arrangement of a chamber version of Janáček's *Jenůfa*, featured in the magazine *Opernwelt*, Verdi's *Otello*, Smetana's *Die verkaufte Braut*, Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, and directed and led Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief*. Repertoire performances included Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and Bizet's *Carmen*.

While Kapellmeister at the **Nationaltheater Mannheim** (2016-2019), Toogood conducted the world premiere of *Vespertine* inspired the album from Björk, and led premieres of Spolanski's *Wie werde ich reich und glücklich* and the dance production *Sanssouci*, including works based on JS Bach and Handel's *Dixit Dominus*. He conducted a vast array of repertoire performances of *Turandot*, *Die Liebe zu drei Orangen*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *Aida*, *Norma*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Don Giovanni*, *Carmina Burana*, *Die lustige Witwe*, *Orpheus in der Unterwelt*, *La Cenerentola*, and *My Fair Lady*. As an assistant, he prepared productions of *Elektra*, *Salome*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Parsifal*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. He has made several crossover classical recordings with the Nationaltheater Mannheim Orchestra, including the operatic world premiere of Björk's *Vespertine* in collaboration with Hotel Pro Forma and Kommando Himmelfahrt, *Synth Happens* with Andreas Henneberg, and *The Glitz*.

As a guest assistant conductor, he has assisted Jonathan Nott for *Elektra* at **Théâtre de Genève**, Sir Simon Rattle at the **Berliner Philharmoniker**, Simon Halsey at the **Rundfunkchor Berlin**, Axel Kober at the **Deutsche Oper am Rhein**, and interned at **Oper Frankfurt**. He has collaborated in alternative musical performances with Friedrich Liechtenstein and Marie Pohl.

As a recipient of the **Swiss Richard Wagner Society** scholarship in 2022, Toogood conducted and arranged a chamber version of *Siegfried Idyll* and the overture from *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in Tribtschen, Luzern. He won the JS Bach Prize at **University of Melbourne**, was a semi-finalist at the 2011 **Blue Danube International Opera Conducting Competition**, and winner of the 2007 **Stonnington Symphony Conductor Prize**. He has participated in masterclasses with Jorma Panula, Colin Metters, Johannes Fritsch, Christopher Seaman, Sebastian Lang-Lessing, and Geoffrey Lancaster, conducting the **Adelaide Symphony Orchestra**, **The Queensland Orchestra**, and the **Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra**.

Matthew Toogood has worked for the **University of Melbourne Faculty of Music** and **Berlin Opera Academy** (conducting Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Puccini's *Suor Angelica*, and *Gianni Schicchi*), accompanied the Bundeswettbewerb Gesangs, and taught at the Musik Landesakademie Hessen. He completed his Masters of Music (Conducting) with John Hopkins OBE in 2008.

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