

**SIR ANDREW DAVIS**  
**Music Director and Principal Conductor, Lyric Opera of Chicago**

Sir Andrew Davis has served as music director and principal conductor of Lyric Opera of Chicago since 2000. He was named a vice president of Lyric's Board of Directors in May 2011. Maestro Davis is conductor laureate of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (having previously served as principal conductor), conductor laureate of the BBC Symphony Orchestra (having previously had the longest tenure as chief conductor since BBCSO founder Sir Adrian Boult) and former music director of Glyndebourne Festival Opera. Sir Andrew serves as artistic advisor to the Besançon International Music Festival and is president of the jury for that festival's 52<sup>nd</sup> International Competition for Young Conductors.

In the 2011-2012 season Maestro Davis conducts *Boris Godunov*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, and *The Magic Flute* at Lyric Opera of Chicago. His engagements elsewhere in 2011-12 include the Besançon Festival, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, London's Philharmonia Orchestra, the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera (*Don Giovanni*), BBC Symphony Orchestra, The Santa Fe Opera, Canadian Opera Company (*Eine florentinische Tragödie* and *Gianni Schicchi*), Santa Fe Opera (*Arabella*), the Bergen Festival (*La damnation de Faust*), and the opening of the Edinburgh Festival. In addition, Sir Andrew will spend several weeks recording for Chandos Records with various orchestras.

In the 2010-11 season Sir Andrew conducted *The Mikado* (new production), *The Girl of the Golden West*, and *Lohengrin* at Lyric Opera of Chicago. He was seen on the podium with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Sir Andrew also returned to the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Proms in London and to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, where he led performances of his own new orchestration of Handel's *Messiah*. Maestro Davis made return appearances with the Metropolitan Opera (*Capriccio*), the Canadian Opera Company (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (*Peter Grimes*), and Glyndebourne Festival Opera (*Rusalka*).

With the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Maestro Davis has led concerts at the Proms and on tour to Hong Kong, Japan, the U.S., and Europe. He has conducted all of the world's major orchestras, from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to the Berlin Philharmonic and the Royal Concertgebouw, as well as at opera houses and festivals throughout the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, and the Bayreuth Festival.

Maestro Davis has a massive discography on the Chandos, Decca, Deutsche Grammophon, Warner Classics International, Capriccio, EMI, and CBS labels, among others. Sir Andrew currently records exclusively for Chandos Records. His first Chandos recording, Elgar's "Crown of India," was released in 2010. His recordings of Holst's "Beni Mora," "Japanese Suite," and

“The Planets,” and of York Bowen’s Symphonies No. 1 and 2 with the BBC Philharmonic; and of Delius’s “Appalachia” and “Song of the High Hills” with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, were issued in the first half of 2011.

In 2008, Sir Andrew released Elgar’s *Violin Concertos*, featuring violinist James Ehnes and London’s Philharmonia Orchestra (Onyx Classics), which won *Gramophone*’s coveted “Best of Category – Concerto” Award. Recordings in 2007 included Beethoven’s *Violin Concerto* with violinist Min-Jyn Kim and the Philharmonia Orchestra (Sony); a solo recital of operatic favorites sung by soprano Nicole Cabell with the London Philharmonic Orchestra (Decca), which in 2008 won the Solti Prize from the French Académie du Disque Lyrique; and Liszt’s *Piano Concerto No. 1* and Chopin’s *Piano Concerto No. 1* with pianist Yundi Li and the Philharmonia Orchestra (Deutsche Grammophon).

In 1992, Maestro Davis was created a Commander of the British Empire for his services to British music, and in 1999 he was made a Knight Bachelor in the New Year Honours List. In 1991, he received the Royal Philharmonic Society/Charles Heidsieck Music Award.

Born in 1944 in Hertfordshire, England, Maestro Davis studied at King’s College, Cambridge, where he was an organ scholar before taking up the baton. His diverse repertoire ranges from Baroque to contemporary, and his vast conducting credits span the symphonic and operatic and choral worlds. Sir Andrew is a great proponent of twentieth-century works including those by Janáček, Messiaen, Boulez, Elgar, Tippett, and Britten, in addition to the core symphonic and operatic composers’ works.

Maestro Davis and his wife, soprano Gianna Rolandi, reside in Chicago where she is the director of The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago. For more information about Maestro Davis, please visit his web site at [www.sirandrewdavis.com](http://www.sirandrewdavis.com).