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SIR ANDREW DAVIS

Conductor

Sir Andrew Davis has served as Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Lyric Opera of Chicago since 2000. He began his tenure as Chief Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in January 2013. Through his prolific recordings, his many international tours, and his guest appearances and relationships with several of the finest orchestras and opera companies in Europe, North America, and Australia, Sir Andrew is one of today's most recognized and acclaimed conductors.

In the 2019-20 season at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Maestro Davis conducts Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*, a new production of Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*, and three highly anticipated performances of the complete "Ring" cycle. This season also sees concerts with Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Massenet's *Thaïs* and other works), Washington's National Symphony Orchestra (Handel's *Messiah* in Sir Andrew's own orchestration), and Chicago Symphony Orchestra (Tippett and Beethoven). Among his major achievements in the 2018-19 season were performances of Duruflé's *Requiem* with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, *Götterdämmerung* at Edinburgh International Festival, and Elgar's *The Music Makers* at the BBC Proms.

Maestro Davis's career spans over forty years in which he has been the artistic leader at several of the world's most distinguished opera and symphonic institutions, including the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Conductor Laureate and Chief Conductor from 1991-2004, the longest tenure since that of its founder Sir Adrian Boult), Glyndebourne Festival Opera (Music Director 1988-2000), and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Conductor Laureate and Principal Conductor from 1975-1988), where he serves as Interim Artistic Director through 2020. In addition, he holds the honorary title of Conductor Emeritus from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Sir Andrew has led performances at many of the world's most



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important opera houses, among them the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, Bayreuth Festival, and the major companies of Munich, Paris, San Francisco, and Santa Fe. In addition to those ensembles, he has appeared with virtually every other internationally prominent orchestra, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, and all the major British orchestras.

A vast and award-winning discography documents Sir Andrew's artistry, with recent CDs including the works of Berlioz, Bliss, Elgar (winner of the 2018 Diapason d'Or de l'Année - Musique Symphonique), Finzi, Grainger, Delius, Ives, Holst, Handel (nominated for a Grammy in 2018 for Best Choral Performance), and York Bowen (nominated for a Grammy in 2012 for Best Orchestral Performance). Sir Andrew's acclaimed recordings with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus celebrating British composers from Teldec's *The British Line* series was recently released as a 16-CD retrospective collection by Warner Classics. Maestro Davis currently records for Chandos Records, where he has been an exclusive artist since 2009.

Born in 1944 in Hertfordshire, England, Maestro Davis studied at King's College, Cambridge, where he was an organ scholar before taking up conducting. His diverse repertoire ranges from Baroque to contemporary, and spans the symphonic, 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 works. As chief conductor, Sir Andrew has always participated in the creation and premieres of new repertoire and new compositions, personally conducting a great number of them.

In 1992, Maestro Davis was created a Commander of the British Empire, and in 1999 he was designated a Knight Bachelor in the New Year Honours List. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois.



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