

Biography

David Stern

Conductor

<http://www.davidstern.co/>



David Stern is a born communicator. Whether conducting a major symphony orchestra, baroque opera, teaching vocal master classes or defending cultural activities, Stern keeps his musicians, students and audiences riveted by sharing his strong musical convictions, his flexibility of approach and his belief that music is relevant and indeed essential in today's world. He is the founder and director of the Paris-based opera studio and period-instrument ensemble Opera Fuoco, as well as artistic adviser of the Shanghai Baroque Festival. In 2015 he was appointed Chief Conductor of Palm Beach Opera.

Stern is known for his eclectic range of repertoire. As former music director of the Israeli Opera and the theatre St. Gallen, he championed 18th century opera and eclectic works such as Simone Mayr's *Medea*, Berg's *Wozzeck*, Britten's *Turn of the Screw* and Weill's *Mahagonny*. He will have premiered four new operas since 2010 - Gil Shochat's *The Child Dreams* at the Israeli Opera, Nicolas Bacri's *Così Fanciulli* commissioned by Opera Fuoco and performed at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Ben Moore's *Enemies, A Love Story* (based on the novella by Isaac Bashevis Singer) in Palm Beach and Jan Sandström's *The Rococo Machine* in Drottningholm, Sweden, which will premiere in June 2016. In 2016, the opera production of Telemann's *Damon* with David Stern and the ensemble Opera Fuoco (director: Aron Stiehl) at the Telemann Festival Magdeburg achieved great critical acclaim.

With Opera Fuoco, Stern has recorded and re-premiered JCBach's opera *Zanaïda* in Leipzig, Paris, Vienna and Malta and released a CD of rediscovered *French Romantic Cantatas* with mezzo-soprano Karine Deshayes. Also with his Paris based ensemble he has recently recorded *Berenice*, a compilation of late Baroque and early Classical works with three members of Opera Fuoco's studio ensemble.

Stern has enjoyed collaborations with international stage directors including David Alden, Stéphane Braunschweig, Robin Guarino, Sam Helfrich, Waut Koeken, Jakob Peters-Messer and Aron Stiehl, among many others. With Yoshi Oida he created iconic settings of Britten's *Curlew River* and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* and with Francisco Negrin he led performances of Mozart's *Mitridate* as artist in residence at the 2014 Drottningholm Opera Festival.

Stern is frequent guest around the globe with symphonic and chamber orchestras. David Stern is regularly invited to the Shanghai and Guangzhou Symphony Orchestras, the China Philharmonic and the New Russian Symphony in Moscow; most recently he has appeared with the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the National Orchestra of Mexico, the NDR Radiophilharmonie

Hannover, the Royal Danish Orchestra, the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra and the Vienna Symphony. He has often performed at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Lucerne Festival, the Philharmonie Paris and at the Vienna Konzerthaus. Before creating his own period-instrument ensemble, David Stern was regular guest with Concerto Köln and the Basel Chamber Orchestra.

Highlights of the 2017/2018 season are various projects with Opera Fuoco (at the Beethoven Fest Bonn, the Philharmonie Paris, the Telemann Festival Magdeburg) and opera productions at the Boston Lyric Opera (*Tosca*), the Drottningholms Slottsteater (*Winterreise*), and at the Palm Beach Opera (*Candide*, *Tosca*). Return engagements with symphonic repertoire will include Shanghai Symphony and Chinese Philharmonic. The 2018/2019 season will mark a major production of Bach's b minor mass with Opera Fuoco and Tölzer Knabenchor at the Bachfest Leipzig, Philharmonie Paris and at the Shanghai Baroque Festival.

Since launching the Aix Festival Academy in 1998, David Stern has been committed to developing young voices. He created Opera Fuoco in 2013 as a platform to train young French singers in repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to John Cage, combining both an opera studio offering regular master classes and an opera company producing and co-producing larger Concertante and staged productions. In 2016 he conducts the *Magic Flute* at the Juilliard School in New York and has been re-invited for baroque repertoire with the school's Ensemble 415. As artistic adviser of the Shanghai Baroque Festival, he involves singers from the Shanghai Conservatory as well as the Opera Fuoco ensemble and he works regularly with the Young Artist Programs in Palm Beach. In 2016, he co-founded the Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition to promote a young generation of talented musicians.

Stern received his Bachelor of Arts from Yale and his Masters of Music from the Juilliard School. He has two daughters and resides in Paris with his wife, violinist Katharina Wolff.

2017/2018

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