

Biography

Gérard Korsten

Conductor

www.gerard-korsten.com



Gérard Korsten is in demand as a guest conductor for appearances with theatres and orchestras in Europe, Asia, Australia and South Africa. He has served as Principal Conductor of the London Mozart Players, the South African State Theatre in Pretoria and the Uppsala Chamber Orchestra in Sweden. From 1999 to 2005 he was Music Director of the Orchestra del Teatro Lirico di Cagliari in Sardinia. After 13 years as Principal Conductor of Austria's Symphonieorchester Vorarlberg Bregenz, Gérard Korsten was awarded Conductor Laureate in summer 2018.

Gérard Korsten's operatic appearances to date have included: Teatro alla Scala, Milan (*Le nozze di Figaro*); Opéra National de Lyon (*Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Idomeneo*, *La traviata*, *Siegfried*, *La Veuve joyeuse* and Henze's *L'Upupa*); Bregenz Festival (Simon Laks' *L'Hirondelle inattendue*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Le Rossignol*, *Der Schauspieldirektor*); Deutsche Oper Berlin (*La traviata*); English National Opera (*Aida*); Glyndebourne Festival (*Così fan tutte*, *Albert Herring*); Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (*Così fan tutte*); Netherlands Opera (*Così fan tutte*); New National Theatre, Tokyo (*Tosca*); Royal Opera Stockholm (*Don Giovanni*) and Hungarian State Opera (*Don Pasquale*). At the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, he did not only conduct the Italian premieres of Richard Strauss' *Die ägyptische Helena*, Weber's *Euryanthe*, Delius' *A Village Romeo and Juliet* and Schubert's *Alfonso und Estrella*, but also repertoire classics such as *Don Giovanni*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Don Pasquale*, *La Traviata*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Aida*, *Tosca*, *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus* and recently *Un ballo in maschera*.

In the 2018/19 season, Gérard Korsten will follow reinventions to the Budapest Festival Orchestra, Orquesta Filarmónica de Gran Canaria, Swedish Chamber Orchestra and Uppsala Chamber Orchestra. At the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari he will conduct the opera performance of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* as well as two symphony concerts.

Born in Pretoria, Gérard Korsten began his career as an orchestral violinist. After studies with Ivan Galamian at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia he went to Salzburg, where he trained with Sándor Végh, becoming concertmaster and then Assistant Music Director of Camerata Salzburg, of which Végh was Principal Conductor. In 1987 Korsten joined the Chamber Orchestra of Europe as its concertmaster; over his nine years with the ensemble he built close working relationships with such conductors as Claudio Abbado, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Heinz Holliger.

Since 1996 he has dedicated his career to conducting, appearing regularly with such orchestras as the Adelaide Symphony, BBC Scottish Symphony, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Camerata Salzburg, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Helsingborg Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Irish Chamber

Orchestra, Latvian National Symphony, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Orchestra Padova e Veneto, Scottish and Swedish Chamber Orchestras and the SWR Sinfonieorchester Freiburg.

Gérald Korsten's Arthaus DVD of *Le nozze di Figaro*, recorded at La Scala with a cast led by Diana Damrau and Ildebrando d'Arcangelo, was awarded a *Diapason D'Or* in France and designated *Critic's Choice* by US magazine *Opera News*. His other recordings include Tchaikovsky's *Serenade* and *Souvenir de Florence* with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe (Deutsche Grammophon), orchestral works by Crusell, Lindblad and Eggert (Naxos), *La Veuve joyeuse* (DVD, Erato) and a number of live recordings with the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari: *Die ägyptische Helena*, *Euryanthe* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* on CD (Dynamic) and, on DVD, *Alfonso und Estrella* (Dynamic) and *Don Pasquale* (Arthaus).

Gérard Korsten has two daughters and lives in both Zurich and Arezzo (Tuscany) with his wife, Italian soprano Eva Mei.

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