

# Laurence Cummings

Conductor



“His orchestra is superb. This is both musical discovery and pure joy; this is how Handel should be.”

**Shirley Athorp, Financial Times**

Laurence Cummings is one of Britain's most exciting and versatile exponents of historical performance both as a conductor and a harpsichord player. He was an organ scholar at Christ Church Oxford where he graduated with first class honours. Until 2012 he was Head of Historical Performance at the Royal Academy of Music which led to both baroque and classical orchestras forming part of the established curriculum. He is now the William Crotch Professor of Historical

Performance. He was Musical Director of the Tilford Bach Society. Since 1999 he has been Musical Director of the London Handel Festival where performances have included productions of *Faramondo*, *Deborah*, *Athalia*, *Esther*, *Agrippina*, *Sorsame*, *Alexander Balus*, *Hercules*, *Samson*, *Ezio*, *Riccardo Primo* and *Tolomeo*. In 2012 he became Artistic Director of the Internationale Händel-Festspiele Göttingen. He is also a regular guest at Casa da Musica in Porto where he is Music Director of the Orquestra Barroca Casa da Música.

Other opera productions he has conducted include *Radamisto*, *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, *Semele*, *Messiah*, *Orfeo* and *Indian Queen* for English National Opera, *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* for Opera North, *Saul*, *Giulio Cesare* and *Fairy Queen* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, *Tamerlano* and Mozart's *Lucio Silla* for Buxton Festival Opera, *The Rake's Progress* with OperaGlass Works at Wilton's Music Hall, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Giulio Cesare*, *Alcina* and *Idomeneo* at Göteborg Opera, *King Arthur* and *SALE* for Opernhaus Zurich, *Saul* at Theater an der Wien, *Messiah* at the Opera de Lyon, *Orfeo* with the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, *Agrippina* at The Juilliard School, Vivaldi's *L'Incoronazione di Dario*, *L'Olympiade* and *La Verita in Cimento* for Garsington Opera, *Ariodante* and *Tolomeo* for English Touring Opera, *Rodelinda* for Opera Theatre Company in the UK, Ireland and New York, *Alceste* at the Linbury Theatre Covent Garden as part of the London Bach Festival, Francisco António de Almeida's *La Spinalba* and *La Giuditta* in Porto, and *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* and *Dardanus* at the Royal Academy of Music.

He regularly conducts the English Concert and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, both in the UK and on tour. He also works with the Hallé, Bournemouth Symphony, Britten Sinfonia, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Ulster Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Academy of Music Baroque Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Handel and Haydn Society (Boston), St Paul Chamber Orchestra (Minnesota), Kansas City Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra

(Washington), Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony, Basel Chamber Orchestra,

Musikollegium Winterthur, and Moscow Chamber Orchestra.

His numerous recordings include the first recording of Handel's newly discovered *Gloria* with Emma Kirkby and the Royal Academy of Music on BIS and recital discs of solo harpsichord music (including music by Louis and François Couperin) for Naxos. A solo disc of Handel arias with Angelika Kirschlager and the Basel Chamber Orchestra on Sony BMG was followed up by a recording of duets with Lawrence Zazzo and Nuria Rial, also with the Basel Chamber Orchestra, on Deutsche Harmonia Mundi. He conducts the English Concert and recorder player Maurice Steger in a disc of Corelli concertos for Harmonia Mundi.

Recent highlights include *Berenice* for the Royal Opera House Linbury Theatre in collaboration with the London Handel Festival and Monteverdi Vespers at Garsington Opera; and appearances with the Ulster Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

Highlights of 2019/20 include a new production of Belshazzar at Zürich Opera, Saul at the Théâtre du Châtelet; along with appearances with the Croatian Baroque Ensemble, the English Concert, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Academy of Ancient Music, and the MDR Orchester; as well as his regular commitments at the London and Göttingen Handel Festivals and Casa da Musica.

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