

Sam Weller



Sam Weller is a young up-and-coming saxophonist and conductor known for his flair and dedication to performance, focussed on sharing his passion for classical and art music with the wider world.

Sam first fell in love with conducting at age 15 in his high school orchestra (Newtown High School of the Performing Arts) and made his debut as a conductor that same year with his school's orchestra upon the stage of the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall in an exchange performance between Sydney and Beijing. Since then, Sam was appointed the inaugural Sydney Youth Orchestra Conducting Fellow (and now Associate Conductor) and was a participant in the 2018 and 2019 Australian Conducting Academy with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. In July 2018, Sam travelled to the Czech Republic to participate in the Zlin International Conducting Masterclass with the Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra. Throughout 2018 Sam worked as assistant conductor and chorus master with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs on their critically acclaimed production Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* and *Christmas at The House*. In November, 2018 Sam travelled to the Eastman School of Music (NY) to conduct Mahler's epic Sixth Symphony under the guidance of world renowned maestro; David Zinman as part of the Eastman Conducting Masterclass. More recently, Sam was the assistant conductor to Geoffrey Paterson (London Sinfonietta) on the Sydney Youth Orchestra's international tour to London and conducted them in their Sydney appearances. In July this year Sam was a participant in the Jarvi Conducting Academy with Paavo, Neeme and Kristjan Jarvi.

In 2016 Sam founded Ensemble Apex, an orchestra based in Sydney which has been hailed as one of the most exciting new ensembles on the Sydney scene' (Limelight Magazine). The ensemble is dedicated to diversifying classical music's audience and all though still young has performed many classical and contemporary concerts including engagements with guest musicians from the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, a ballet in Sydney Town Hall and performing with grammy award winning artist Lorde. Sam has conducted alongside established and up and coming talent such as Simon Tedeschi, Oliver Shermacher (YPA) and Anna Da Silva Chen (YPA). The orchestra is proud to consistently present sold out concert seasons drawing musicians from all around Australia.