

LEONARD WEISS

Leonard Weiss is an Australian conductor and educator. He is the inaugural recipient of the 2021 NSW Orchestral Conducting Fellowship which facilitates a range of concert and recording opportunities with the Sydney Youth Orchestras. This year Leonard has assisted the Melbourne and Queensland Symphony Orchestras and been Assistant Conductor for National Opera's *La Clemenza di Tito* and The Flowers of Peace's *Vietnam Requiem*.

Leonard was the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's 2020-21 BSO-Peabody Fellow and studied conducting with Marin Alsop at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. There he made his opera debut conducting Kaija Saariaho's *Émilie* and was received the Conservatory's "Rising Star" award in 2020. Since returning to Australia Leonard received the 2020 Mr and Mrs Gerald Frank New Churchill Fellowship which will lead to international development opportunities in the coming year.

Celebrated as the "ubiquitous Mr Music" (CityNews) Leonard was Musical Director and Conductor of the National Capital Orchestra (2015 - 2019), the Canberra Youth Orchestra (2015 - 2019), the Australian National University Choral Society (2015 - 2019) and the Canberra Qwire (2014 - 2018). Leonard is Co-founder and Artistic Director of the Canberra Sinfonia, a chamber orchestra inaugurated in 2018, and he regularly works with a range of orchestras in Sydney and Canberra.

For his services to music in the National Capital, Leonard was awarded as the 2016 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year for Youth Arts and Multimedia, an ACT Finalist for 2016 Young Australian of the Year, and in the same year received a Canberra Critics' Circle Award for Music.

Highlights of Leonard's work include conducting the Band of the Royal Military College for the UK High Commission's Armistice 100 celebrations in 2018; a three-week concert run as Musical Director for Dramatic Productions' acclaimed season of *Sweeney Todd* in 2017; and conducting concerts in Munich, Dublin and Auckland. Previous conducting positions include Assistant Conductor of the Maruki Community Orchestra (2012 - 2018) and Co-founder and Conductor of Echo Voices Community Choir (2012 - 2015). Leonard was the Course Coordinator and teacher for the ANU Open School of Music (2016 - 2019) and taught and conducted multiple ensembles at Canberra Grammar School (2011 - 2019).

Leonard is passionate about showcasing contemporary music and meaningfully engaging with current audiences. He has conducted World and Australian premieres by Philip Glass, Christopher Gordon, Jessica Wells, Bree van Reyk, Sally Greenaway, Michael Dooley, Chloe Sinclair and Dante Clavijo; as well as significant Canberra/regional premieres by Carl Vine AO, Graham Koehne AO, Matthew Hindson AM and Natalie Williams. Additional Australian Premieres have included works by Sibelius and Respighi.

On top of his conducting portfolio, Leonard is a noted composer and performer. He has featured as a harpist for government functions including those for the Prime Minister and has toured as a carillonist throughout Belgium, Germany, Denmark and the USA. Leonard holds an Ars Musica Australis Arts Fellowship and has received professional development funding from the Australia Council for the Arts, the American Australian Association Arts Fund, and the American Austrian Foundation / Faber Conductor Fellowship.

Having first met Johannes Fritzsch and the TSO as a participant in the 2018 and 2019 Australian Conducting Academies, Leonard is ecstatic to return to Hobart in 2022 for this industry-leading program and can't wait to make music with some of Australia's finest performers.

www.LeonardWeiss.com