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DAVID BUCK

CONDUCTOR

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David Buck - Conductor

BIOGRAPHY

David Buck, Music Director of the Los Angeles Symphonic Camerata, has successfully balanced a career of conducting both symphony and opera. From 1989 to 1997 he served concurrently as Music Director and Conductor of the Guild Opera of Los Angeles with which he conducted nearly two hundred performances of works ranging in style from the *Magic Flute* to the *Mikado*, and as Professor of Music at California State University, Los Angeles. In 1997 he founded the Los Angeles Symphonic Camerata for which he is currently the Music Director and Conductor.

Within recent years Buck also has performed internationally. During the fall of 1993 he guest conducted in Taiwan under the auspices of the Cultural Division of the Taiwanese government. In June of 1994 he conducted the Varna Philharmonic in the Varna International Music Festival in Bulgaria. In July 1994 he conducted the Pusan Symphony in Korea. In September 1996 Buck made his New York debut in Avery Fisher Hall after being selected to conduct a festival orchestra honoring the United Nations. In March and April of 2004 he conducted the Shanghai Opera, the Huangzhao Symphony, and the Hebei Province Symphony in China. Prior to this Buck conducted the Baltimore Symphony, as well as numerous professional civic, and festival orchestras.

The great American composer, Roy Harris, named Buck "one of America's finest young conductors" after hearing Buck conduct his Third Symphony. Herbert Blomstedt, Music Director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, commended him for his "sympathetic and inspiring manner", and went on to say "What I have heard of him and his newly founded Los Angeles Symphonic Camerata confirms my impression of a man of exceptional skills and visionary drive." Daniel Barenboim invited Buck to the Deutsches Staatsoper Berlin "Unter den Linden" in 1995 and subsequently to the Bayreuth Festival in 1996 to work with him in the productions of Wagner's *Goetterdaemmerung*, and *Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg*. Wolfgang Wagner personally invited Buck to participate as a member of the regie in the 1996 Bayreuth Festival productions of *Die Meistersinger*, and *Tristan and Isolde*. The Los Angeles Times commended the excellence of his conducting *The Marriage of Figaro* saying that the performance was "distinguished by meticulous musical preparation...a Figaro production that served Mozart with dedication and success. The orchestra played cohesively, carefully, and stylishly."

David Buck completed the Bachelor of Music Degree in Violin Performance at the University of the Pacific in 1966 with Ralph Matesky. He completed both the M.M. and D.M.A. Degrees at the University of Washington where his principal mentors were Stanley Chapple in conducting, and Emanuel Zetlin in violin. During this period Buck was a recipient of grants from the Martha Baird Rockefeller Foundation, and the Danforth Foundation. His association with Richard Lert through the American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Institutes (68, 70, 71) and privately in Los Angeles fundamentally influenced his conducting. Buck has conducted in the master classes of Herbert Blomstedt, George Solti, Walter Susskind, and Otto Werner Mueller. In 1969 Buck studied with the noted opera director, Walter Felsenstein. This association served as a defining experience in Dr. Buck's work as a conductor of opera.

David Buck is Artistic Director of the International Institute of Music Los Angeles. He served as Coordinator for the Rhode Island State Arts Council of its Music in the Arts Program from 1971-73. He organized and directed the Rhode Island International Master Pianist Competition from 1973-75. He was also the Organizer and Director of the International Institute of Music in Taos, New Mexico from 1983-1988. In 1998 Buck served as Artistic Director and Producer of the international festival of the arts, *Taiwan Facets*, which featured musicians, dancers, and artists from Berlin, Taipei, and Los Angeles in a joining of the "Sister Cities" under the auspices of the mayors of Los Angeles, Berlin, and Taipei. He has served such organizations as the Henri Mancini Institute, Duke University, the New American Orchestra, and the Chancellor of the California State University system as an organizational consultant and program designer. Buck is a gifted fundraiser and has received grants from numerous organizations including most recently from the Los Angeles City Cultural Affairs Committee, and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in support of the Camerata as well as contributions from very significant private donors for the Los Angeles Symphonic Camerata.

CURRICULUM VITAE/PROFESSIONAL SYNOPSIS

Professional Conducting Experience 1990 – present:

1997-present Founder, Music Director, Los Angeles Symphonic Camerata
1990-97 Music Director, Los Angeles Guild Opera
2004 Guest Conductor, Shanghai Opera, China
2004 Guest Conductor, Hangzhou Symphony, China
2004 Guest Conductor, Hebei Symphony, China
1996 Conductor, United Nations Festival Orchestra, Lincoln Center
1996 Conducting Regie, Bayreuther Festspiele, Bayreuth, Germany
1995 Conducting Regie, Deutsches Staatsoper Berlin, Berlin, Germany
1995-97 Guest Conductor, Santa Cecilia Orchestra, Los Angeles
Guest Conductor, Varna Philharmonic, Varna International Music
1994 Festival, Varna, Bulgaria
1994 Guest Conductor, Pusan Symphony, Pusan, South Korea
1993 Guest Conductor, National Normal Symphony Orchestra, Taipei, Taiwan
1992 Guest Conductor, New American Orchestra, Los Angeles

Employment:

1976-2002 Professor of Music, California State University, Los Angeles
1970-76 Director of Orchestral Studies/Professor of Music, University of Rhode Island
1995-present International Institute of Music Los Angeles

Education:

1966 Bachelor of Music, Violin performance, University of the Pacific
1968 Master of Music, Conducting, University of Washington
1970 Doctor of Musical Arts, Conducting, University of Washington

Special Studies:

1995-96 The operas of Wagner, with Daniel Barenboim
1996 The operas of Wagner, with Wolfgang Wagner
1985 Master Class in Conducting, American Symphony Orchestra League, Otto Werner Mueller
1983, 84 Master Class in Conducting, Loma Linda Institute, Herbert Blomstedt
1972 Master Class in Conducting, Carnegie Hall, Walter Susskind
1972 Master Class in Conducting, War Memorial Hall, Chicago, George Solti
1972 Opera Direction, Walter Felsenstein, New England Consortium
1968, 70 Master Class in Conducting, American Symphony Orchestra League, Asilomar, Orkney Springs, Richard Lert
1968, 69 Baroque Performance Practice, University of Washington, Thurston Dart

David Buck - Conductor

Violin Studies:

1962-66 Ralph Matesky
1967-70 Emanuel Zetlin
1966 Donald McGinnes
1976-78 Noumi Fisher

Violin Performance:

1976-89 Los Angeles Freelance, Walt Disney, Paramount, etc.
1971-76 Colonial String Quartet, Second Violin, Resident Quartet, URI
1968-70 Concertmaster, Festival Opera, Seattle
1968-present Freelance

Organizational Experience:

1995-present Organizer, Artistic Director, International Institute of Music Los Angeles
1997-present Organizer, Music Director, Los Angeles Symphonic Camerata
1997-98 Organizer, Artistic Director, Taiwan Facets Festival
1995-96 Organizational Designer and Consultant, Henri Mancini Institute
1994 Organizational Consultant, Duke University
1993-94 Organizational Consultant, Foundation for New American Music
1982 Organizational Consultant, Chancellor, California State University System, Summer Arts Program, Humboldt, California
1979-82 Administrative Director, Conductor, International Institute of Music, Taos, New Mexico
1978-79 West Coast Regional Director, New Mexico Music Festival
1974-76 Organizer, Artistic Director, Rhode Island Summer String Workshop
1973-74 Organizer, Artistic Director, Rhode Island International Master Pianist Competition
1970-72 Organizer Director, Rhode Island State Arts Council, Arts in Education Project

David Buck - Conductor
CRITICAL ACCLAIM/REVIEWS

Providence Journal – 1975

“...the Beethoven was compelling. Buck created a powerful sound.”

Westerly Sun – 1976 – Arch Crosley

“The URI Symphony under the baton of Dr. David Buck supported the chorus with precision...not just another Messiah. This one was fun and spirited for all.”

Pasadena Star News – 1977 – Richard Stiles

“This was a rock solid, professional performance of the Dvorak. The orchestra played with total commitment to its new conductor and with exceptional musicality.”

Los Angeles Times – 1984 - Richard Segal

“...distinguished by meticulous musical preparation...a Figaro production that served Mozart with dedication and success. The orchestra played cohesively, carefully, and stylishly.”

Taipei, Taiwan – 1993

“...an all Mozart program. The musical celebration of this anniversary was very high standard....a program of many works...each performed expressively.”

Varna, Bulgaria – 1994 - Varna International Summer Music Festival

“Guest conductor, David Buck, from the USA made a fine impression with the audience and apparently the orchestra which gave its finest concert of the summer Saturday. Maestro Buck reduced the orchestra for a brilliant performance of Mozart’s Symphony No. 28. This was followed by the McDowell Second Piano Concerto...the accompaniment was of greater interest than the solo...The orchestra played Brahms Third Symphony with much enthusiasm.”

Pusan, Korea – 1994

“...one of the best concerts this year...precise performance with much energy (Brahms Symphony No. 3)...excellent accompaniment of the Bruch G minor Violin Concerto.”

Los Angeles Times – Don Heckman – 2002

“...it was touching to hear him-halfway through the concert-turn to conductor David Buck and the members of the Camerata and earnestly thank them for providing what he described as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

REFERENCES

Herbert Blomstedt

Music Director
Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra
Leipzig, Germany
Refer to Karen Kimes
San Francisco Symphony
Davies Symphony Hall
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Heinz Blankenburg

Artistic Director, Los Angeles Guild Opera
Baritone, Hamburg Opera
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Nino Rosso

Associate Principal Cello
Los Angeles Philharmonic
323 877 2314

Salpy Kerkonian

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Principal Flute, Santa Cecilia Orchestra
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Jian Wang

Principal Cello, Los Angeles Symphonic Camerata
Hollywood studios freelance
H 323-660-5093 WK 323-712.5093

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Flute, Composer
323 343 4060

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Second Violin, Lark String Quartet
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