

Steuart Bedford

Steuart Bedford is recognised as one of today's leading experts on the works of Benjamin Britten. As a result of his former collaboration with the composer, Steuart Bedford has conducted Britten's operas throughout the world, including the world premiere of *Death in Venice* (1973) which was followed by the first recording of the work. During the period 1974 – 1998, he was one of the Artistic Directors of the Aldeburgh Festival and eventually became Joint Artistic Director with Oliver Knussen.



Steuart Bedford has an extensive operatic repertoire and has worked with many of the world's greatest opera companies including English National Opera, the Royal Opera Covent Garden, Metropolitan Opera, Opera North, Scottish Opera, Opera de Paris, Brussels Opera, Monte Carlo Opera, Lausanne Opera, San Diego Opera, Santa Fe Opera Festival, Vancouver Opera, and the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires. Notable successes include Lowell Liebermann's *Pictures of Dorian Grey* at Milwaukee Florentine Opera, Minoru Miki's *The Tale of Genji* with the Opera Theatre of St Louis (which successfully toured to Japan), Puccini's *Tosca* with the New York City Opera, and Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* with Oper du Rhin.

Mr Bedford is a highly regarded for his interpretations of the works of Mozart and his conducting of *Idomeneo*, *Lucio Silla*, *The Magic Flute*, *Don Giovanni* and *La Finta Giardiniera*, *Il re pastore* and *Così fan tutte* for Garsington Opera in past seasons has been widely acclaimed. He will return there in 2010 – this time for *Midsummer Night's Dream*. In July 2008 he conducted *Così fan tutte* with Garsington Opera at the Barbican in London as part of the prestigious Mostly Mozart Festival. He has conducted Massenet's *Thais* with Boston Lyric Opera, Britten's *Gloriana* with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, *Death in Venice* with Teatro Colon, *Peter Grimes* and *Turn of the Screw* with Royal Danish Opera, *The Magic Flute* with the Bolshoi Theatre, *Barber of Seville* with Atlanta Opera and *Paul Bunyan* as part of the 2007 Bregenz Festival. Forthcoming engagements include *Britten's Midsummer Night's Dream* with Opéra de Toulon, *Peter Grimes* with San Diego Opera, *Owen Wingrave* with Chicago Opera Theatre and *Rape of Lucretia* with both Royal Danish Opera and Norwegian Opera.

Although opera commitments take up much of his time, Steuart Bedford conducts concert engagements, both in the UK and abroad, and has toured Australia, New Zealand, South America and Scandinavia. He has worked with English Chamber Orchestra (with whom he has toured all over the world), the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Gürzenich Orchestra, Orchestre National de Bordeaux Aquitaine, Orchestre Philharmonique de Montpellier, Dortmund Philharmonic and the BBC Orchestras.

Mr Bedford made many recordings with Collins Classics which were subsequently re-released on Naxos, and he was the Artistic Director of the highly acclaimed series of recordings, 'The Britten Edition'. Recordings include *The Turn of the Screw*, *Albert Herring* and a disc of Orchestral Songs, which won many recording awards. In particular, Mr Bedford's *Albert Herring* disc, now on Naxos, continues to receive outstanding critical acclaim. He has also recorded for EMI, Decca, Philips, ASV and Chandos.

2008/09 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.