



Following a four-year engagement as Assistant GMD at the Volksoper Wien (2000-2004), conductor Rick Stengårds is *Erster Kapellmeister* at the Luzerner Theater and *Chefdirigent* of the Schlossorchester Schönbrunn; positions he has held since 2004.

In Europe and Australia, Stengårds has studied with such notable conductors as Peter Eötvös, Vittorio Parisi, Ronald Zollman, Robert Rosen and Vladimir Verbitsky.

In addition to an extensive symphonic canon, Stengårds has a music-theatre repertoire of over 100 works performing with companies such as Volksoper Wien, Folkoperan Stockholm, Opera Australia, Victoria State Opera, Chamber Made Opera and West Australian Opera where, in 1991, he was appointed Music Director.

Operatic highlights include the world premieres of Koehne's *Love Burns*, Tahourdin's *Heloise and Abelard*, Ingham's *Transfigured Night*, Koukias' *Mikrovian*, Australian premieres of Turnage's *Greek*, Williamson's *Our Man in Havana*, Swiss premieres of Kraus' *Soliman II*, Martinu's *Ariane* and Joplin's *Treemonisha* and regional premieres of *Wozzeck* and *The Rake's Progress*. Stengårds is highly acclaimed for his interpretations of Mozart, Puccini and Verdi, in particular successful seasons of *The Magic Flute* and *Madama Butterfly*. His 1994 performance of *Rigoletto* "had shattering intensity, both vivid and impressive" (The Australian).

The same year he was appointed Music Director for West Australian Ballet where he has conducted works such as *Giselle*, *Nutcracker* and world premieres of Howard's *Medea* and Smalley's *Chimera*. Stengårds has conducted a number of seasons for the Australian Ballet including acclaimed performances of Tchaikovsky's *Theme and Variations* and *Carmina Burana*.

As Artistic Director of several ensembles such as the Malvern Symphony Orchestra, POCKET OPERA or *ensemble australis* and in concerts with Klangforum Wien and the Seymour Group, Stengårds has gained a wide contemporary repertoire, with particular emphasis on works from Sweden, Australia and the Second Viennese School.

Stengårds also has wide experience with choral groups. In addition to a four year term as Director of Queen's College Chapel Choir, he was Music Director of the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic Choir for four years followed by a three year appointment with the University of Western Australia Choral Society. He has conducted the West Australian and Tasmanian Symphony Choruses, the undergraduate choirs at the Universities of Melbourne, Monash, Macquarie and Western Australia, the Ashton Smith Singers, the Willoughby Symphony Choir and Harmonia Sacra.

In Europe, aside from the internationally acclaimed Johann Strauss Capelle and Schönbrunner Schlossorchester, Stengårds has conducted the Ulster Orchestra in a series of concerts and recordings for the British Broadcasting Corporation, the SL Orkester, the Uppsala Kammarorkester, Klangforum Wien, the Wroclaw Philharmonic, the Rundfunk Sinfonie-Orchester Saarbrücken (featuring soloist Andreas Scholl), DalaSinfoniettan, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, the European Doctors Orchestra and the Nürnberger Symphoniker.

Highlights in season 2006/7 included *Gianni Schicchi*, *Trouble in Tahiti*, *Die Schnecke* (Eggert), *Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed* (Zeller), *Das Land des Lächelns*, *Werther* and concerts for the Luzerner Theater, concerts with Corpus Medicum (Melbourne), a Regional Tour with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, a New Year's programme with the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra and Mahler *Symphony #1* with the European Doctors Orchestra in Berlin.

In season 2007/8, Stengårds conducted a concert with *Värmlands Sinfoniettan*, New Year's concerts with the Berlin Residenz Orchester, *Idomeneo*, *Falstaff*, *Der Bettelstudent*, *Hoffmanns Erzählungen*, *Paul Bunyan*, *Die Rote Zora* (Naske - World Premiere) as well as concerts for the Luzerner Theater. In August he conducted *L'Elisir d'Amore* for Victorian Opera.

In season 2008/9 he conducted *Kehraus um St Stephan* (Krenek), *Don Giovanni*, *Der Vogelhändler*, *Die Grosse Bäckereiattacke* (Mochizuki – World Premiere), *La Bohème* (Leoncavallo), *Orfeo ed Euridice* as well as concerts for the Luzerner Theater.

Last season Stengårds conducted *Wozzeck* (Gurlitt), *L'Heure Espagnole*, *Ariane* (Martinu), *Das Christelflein* (Pfitzner), *Sonnambula*, the World Premiere of Graewe's *Barbara Strozzi* and the silent Film *Romeo und Julia im Schnee*. He premiered Brenton Broadstock's Choral Symphony *Tyranny of Distance* for the Melbourne Festival and conducted New Year's concerts with the Schönbrunner Schlossorchester.

In this season productions include *West Side Story*, *Sommernachtstraum*, *Our Hospitality* (Silent-Film) and various concerts at the Luzerner Theater, a DVD recording with the Zhu Jiang Film Orchestra, an appearance in Athens with the Johann Strauss Capelle and a concert series with the Philharmonie Luxembourg.

February 2011