

L2 ARTISTS

CRAIG KIER
CONDUCTOR



GENERAL MANAGEMENT

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CRAIG KIER

Emerging American Conductor Craig Kier has already received high praise for his “Tesla-like intensity” and “impeccable orchestral support” while leading performances throughout the United States and on international stages. In the 2014-2015 season, Maestro Kier became the Director of the Maryland Opera Studio at The University of Maryland School of Music. Productions since the beginning of his tenure have included Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte*, Ravel’s *L’enfant et les sortilèges*, Blitzstein’s *Regina* and Rossini’s *L’occasione fa il ladro*.

In the 2015 – 2016 season, guest engagements for Maestro Kier included his debut with Wolf Trap Opera leading Britten’s *Rape of Lucretia*, and a return to Opera Birmingham for *La traviata*. He also continued his longstanding relationship with Houston Ballet, leading performances of *The Nutcracker*, which he has done since 2011. Engagements in the upcoming 2016-2017 season include *Madama Butterfly* in his debut at Arizona Opera, his debut with Opera Saratoga leading Verdi’s *Falstaff*, and performances of *The Nutcracker* with Houston Ballet. As Director of the Maryland Opera Studio, he will lead productions of *The Rape of Lucretia*, Gluck’s *Orfeo ed Euridice*, and Offenbach’s *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

From 2010 – 2013, Maestro Kier was Associate Conductor under Patrick Summers at Houston Grand Opera. During his time with the company he led dozens of performances including *Madama Butterfly*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Trial by Jury* and the world premiere of Huang Ruo’s *Bound*. He also assisted on productions of *Otello*, *Rigoletto*, *Il trovatore*, *Don Carlos*, *La traviata*, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Guest engagements for Maestro Kier include *La bohème* with Lyric Opera of Kansas City, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Atlanta Opera, Kurt Weill’s *Lost in the Stars* at Glimmerglass Festival, Thomas’ *Hamlet* with Opera Birmingham, *L’italiani in Algeri* with Opera Santa Barbara and *The Music Man* at Royal Opera House Muscat, Oman. In the summer of 2013 he served as Assistant Conductor on The Santa Fe Opera’s production of *la donna del lago* starring Joyce DiDonato and Lawrence Brownlee.

Maestro Kier began his career as part of Seattle Opera’s music staff, serving in a variety of roles including Assistant Conductor, Coach/Accompanist, and Chorus Master. He has since served on the music staffs of The Santa Fe Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Atlanta Opera, Opera Colorado and Des Moines Metro Opera.