



ROBERT TWETEN
CONDUCTOR

Conductor **Robert Tweten** has been described as leading with “verve and precision,” as well as having “flawless” pacing, and having “musicality and near-symbiotic accord with singers which always impresses.” This past season he returned to Edmonton Opera for *Tosca*, to Utah Opera for *Falstaff* and to Lyric Opera of Chicago to cover performances of Verdi’s *Macbeth*, as well as visiting the Shenandoah University to conduct *Street Scene*. In the 2011-2012 season Maestro Tweten will return to Canada to conduct *Fidelio* with the Edmonton Opera, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Vancouver Opera, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Pagliacci* with Calgary Opera and Utah Opera for Verdi’s *Rigoletto*.

The 2009-2010 season saw him with Edmonton Opera for *Rigoletto* and Sarasota Opera for *Die Zauberflöte*. In the 2007-2008 season he led performances of *Tosca* for Opera Birmingham and *Don Giovanni* for Utah Opera. The Canadian native also returned to Canada to conduct Mozart’s *Don*

Giovanni for Opera Ontario and *Tosca* for Vancouver Opera, and covered *La traviata* for Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Other recent engagements include *Il barbiere di Siviglia* for Opera Pacific, Calgary Opera and Madison Opera, *La cenerentola* with Austin Lyric Opera, and *Jenůfa* and *Die Zauberflöte* for Utah Opera. For the Santa Fe Opera, where he serves as Head of Music Staff, Mo. Tweten has conducted *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Katya Kabanova*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Ermione*, as well as their 50th Anniversary Concert in 2006. As a frequent Guest Conductor with the Santa Fe Symphony he has led them in orchestral concerts as well as in Handel’s *Messiah* and the Mozart *Requiem*. In recent summers, Robert served as cover conductor for Santa Fe Opera’s performances of *Madame Butterfly* and *Albert Herring*. He was recently seen conducting *The Merry Widow* at Opera Southwest, where he served as Principal Conductor and has also led productions of *Falstaff* and *La traviata*.

Mo. Tweten has been associated with several opera companies including: The Canadian Opera Company, where in addition to conducting he also served as Chorus Master and Head Coach, The Banff Center of Fine Arts where he was a conductor for the Musical Theater Studio Ensemble as well as a coach for the Opera and Musical Theater programs, and the Houston Grand Opera. He has led the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra and singers of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists in Rising Stars in Concert as well as conducted performances of *Die Zauberflöte* for Lyric Opera of Chicago where he serves as Assistant Conductor.

Robert Tweten began his career as a piano soloist after receiving his Associate of Arts Degree from the Victoria Conservatory of Music and winning such competitions as the Du Maurier Search for Stars and the Canadian National Piano Competition. Now equally at home as a recitalist as a conductor, Robert has performed with many of today’s most prominent singers including Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Elizabeth Futral, Catherine Malfitano, Samuel Ramey, Gregory Turay, and Suzanne Mentzer in venues such as Alice Tully Hall at New York’s Lincoln Center, Chicago’s Orchestra Hall, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Toronto’s Ford Center, Los Angeles’ Disney Hall, Barcelona’s Gran Teatre del Liceu, La Monnaie in Brussels, the Zurich Opera House, Vienna’s Konzerthaus, London’s Wigmore Hall, and the Salzburg Festival

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Sarasota Opera	<i>Pearl Fishers</i>	Conductor	2013
Calgary	<i>Otello</i>	Conductor	2012
Utah Opera	<i>Il Trovatore</i>	Conductor	2012
Edmonton Opera	<i>Fidelio</i>	Conductor	2012
Vancouver Opera	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Conductor	2012
Utah Opera	<i>Rigoletto</i>	Conductor	2012
Edmonton Opera	<i>Fidelio</i>	Conductor	2012
Calgary Opera	<i>Gianni Schicchi/Pagliacci</i>	Conductor	2011
Utah Opera	<i>Falstaff</i>	Conductor	2011
Edmonton Opera	<i>Tosca</i>	Conductor	2011
Shenandoah University	<i>Street Scene</i>	Conductor	2010
Sarasota Opera	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Conductor	2010
Calgary Opera	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Conductor	2009
Austin Lyric Opera	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	Conductor	2008
Santa Fe Opera	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Conductor	2008
Opera Birmingham	<i>Tosca</i>	Conductor	2008
Utah Opera	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Conductor	2008
Vancouver Opera	<i>Tosca</i>	Conductor	2007
Santa Fe Opera	50 Anniversary Concert	Conductor	2006
Opera Ontario	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Conductor	2006
Opera Southwest	<i>The Merry Widow</i>	Conductor	2006
University British Columbia	<i>The Gondoliers</i>	Conductor	2006
Utah Opera	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Conductor	2006
Utah Opera	<i>Jenufa</i>	Conductor	2005
Opera Southwest	<i>La traviata</i>	Conductor	2005
Santa Fe Symphony	"Awaken to Spring" program	Conductor	2005
Santa Fe Opera	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Conductor	2004
Opera Southwest	<i>Falstaff</i>	Conductor	2004
Santa Fe Opera	<i>Katya Kabanova</i>	Conductor	2003
Madison Opera	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Conductor	2003
Santa Fe Symphony	<i>Mozart Requiem, Emperor Concerto</i>	Conductor	2003
Santa Fe Opera	<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Conductor	2002
Lyric Opera of Chicago	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Conductor	2002
Opera Pacific	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Conductor	2002
Canadian Opera Company	<i>L'isola disabitata</i>	Conductor	2002
Lyric Opera of Chicago	"Night of Rising Stars" – LOCAA Concert	Conductor	2001
Santa Fe Symphony	Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	Conductor	2001
Santa Fe Opera	<i>Ermione</i>	Conductor	2000

Relevant Positions Held

Lyric Opera of Chicago	Assistant Conductor	1993-present
Santa Fe Opera	Head of Music Staff	1991-present
Canadian Opera Company	Head Coach	1989-1993
Houston Grand Opera Studio/U. of Houston	Assistant Conductor/Coach	1987-1989
Banff Center for the Fine Arts	Coach/Conductor of Opera and Musical Theater	1983-1989

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Critical Acclaim

Edmonton Opera - Tosca

"The Edmonton Symphony, led by Robert Tweten, enriched the performance immensely. The supplemented brass section, in particular, deserves special mention, but the entire musical balance and attention to the orchestra's role were superb."

- Opera Canada, June 2011

Utah Opera - Falstaff

"Tweten paced and blended orchestral and vocal forces skillfully, eliciting an engaging energy. Members of the Utah Symphony Orchestra articulated the witty score with precision and clarity. The opera's ending fugue featured well-defined vocal and instrumental entrances, bobbing to the surface like feeding fish. "

- Opera News, 2011

"Conducted by Robert Tweten, the Utah Symphony orchestra's performance of Verdi's work is integral to the story — not just a well-executed and masterfully written accompaniment."

- The Dessert News, 2011

Sarasota Opera - Die Zauberflöte

"The company's unpretentious style worked somewhat better in its Egyptian-themed staging of 'Die Zauberflöte.'...The Sarasota Orchestra sounded impressive under conductor Robert Tweten."

-*The Wall Street Journal*, 2010

"Choral work and the support of a very fine orchestra conducted by Robert Tweten round out this enjoyable production."

-*Herald Tribune*, 2010

"If you look at the G. Schirmer vocal score of Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte" ("The Magic Flute"), you'll see that it has only 167 pages of music. Yet some productions can seem interminable. Fortunately, the one presented by the Sarasota Opera positively flew by. First, the pacing was swift, starting with the well-known overture, played beautifully by the Sarasota Opera Orchestra under the direction of Robert Tweten. It took a sprightly speed — faster than I usually like, but certainly valid and stylish."

-*Your Observer.com*, 2010

Edmonton Opera – Rigoletto

"Conductor Robert Tweten led the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra with a sensible attention to the rise and fall of the dramatic action. There were no dry spots in any of the singers' quieter moments, where instrumental zeal can overshadow the vocal effort."

-*Opera Canada*, 2009

"Verdi's music is, of course, gorgeous under the baton of Robert Tweten and the always reliable ESO."

-*Edmonton Journal*, 2009

Calgary Opera – *Il barbiere di Siviglia*

“Conductor Robert Tweten, making his debut with the company, favoured brisk tempos and a genial view of the score, particularly evident in the smooth, but skilfully played overture, surely the most famous in all opera.”

-*Calgary Herald*, 2009

Austin Lyric Opera – *La cenerentola*

“Musically, the production was well in hand with Robert Tweten wielding the baton. This young man has a remarkable flair for Rossini, invariably finding the right balance between singers and orchestra and capturing all the wit and sparkle in the score. He also had the courage and the skill to ‘press the pedal to the metal,’ as it were, with some blazing fast tempos. This fine cast and orchestra had apparently been rehearsed within an inch of their lives and in this opening night performance, they responded to Tweten’s beat with enthusiasm and musicality.”

-*The Art of the Conductor.com*, 2008

Vancouver Opera - *Tosca*

“Another star of the evening was the orchestra, with Maestro Robert Tweten, another newcomer, teasing out white-heat playing from the pit that would have graced several of the world's major opera houses. The orchestral sound, even in the wonky acoustics of the Queen E, came out shimmeringly, with polished playing one of the highlights of an evening that offered pleasure after pleasure. This *Tosca*, one to add to the memory books (and I've seen Carerras, Caballé, and Domingo in these roles), with its lavish sets and top-flight cast, brought a splendid close to Vancouver Opera's 2006-07 season.”

-*Review Vancouver.org*, 2007

“The chorus is terrific too, and conductor Robert Tweten gets nothing but beautiful playing from the Vancouver Opera Orchestra. This is a dream closing for an opera company, something that should get the subscriptions going for next year.”

-*Vancouver Sun*, 2007

Opera Ontario - *Don Giovanni*

“Opera Ontario fielded an impressive cast for a production of *Don Giovanni* (seen Oct. 21), most noteworthy for introducing Ontario audiences to Canadian artists Daniel Okulitch in the title role and conductor Robert Tweten, both of whom have made names for themselves in the U.S. Under Tweten, the Hamilton Philharmonic produced crisp, unified playing in a considerably lightened style. Tweten's tendency to emphasize contrasts between one tempo and the next consistently heightened the work's dramatic impact.”

-*Opera News*, 2006

Utah Opera – *Jenůfa*

“The members of the Utah Symphony played radiantly, and conductor Robert Tweten’s pacing was flawless, allowing the action on stage to unfurl naturally”

- *Desert News*, 2005

“Janacek’s score is a marvel...Robert Tweten presided over an expert performance by the Utah Symphony.”

- *Salt Lake Tribune*, 2005

Opera Pacific – *Il barbiere di Siviglia*

“Canada’s Robert Tweten, in his company debut, led a performance fleet and affectionate, with ensembles including the hurly-burly that ends the first act- nicely balanced.”

- *L.A. Weekly*, 2002

Santa Fe Opera – *The Pirates of Penzance*

“Robert Tweten led the orchestra of players from the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra with clarity – and how nice to see a conductor look happy and amused...the overture was full of light and shade, and the players delivered clean staccato as well as plenty of luscious lyricism throughout the operetta.”

- *The Santa Fe New Mexican*, 2002