

BRIAN STANBOROUGH

Australian virtuoso concert pianist and conductor

INTRODUCTION

Brian gave his first concert at the age of eight. His professional career began two years later with the Australian Broadcasting Commission and other major Australian radio stations.

He studied with the celebrated Russian pianists Igor and Alexander Hmelnitsky and became a “Young Australian Artist” for the ABC when only 10 years old, performing regularly on radio and television and on the music club circuit. He won many major competitions in Sydney, Adelaide and other Australian cities.

Parallel to his career as concert pianist, his passion and interest for the voice and theatre led him to conduct operas for the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust, becoming their youngest ever Musical Director when only 18 years old. He toured and conducted *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Pasquale*, *La Bohème* and various musical comedies including *The King and I*, *Sentimental Bloke*, *Sweethearts* and *South Pacific*.

His brilliant career as a young musician in Australia culminated in an Australia-wide tour of 67 concerts as soloist and accompanist for the ABC’s “Celebrity Series” with Patrick O’Hagan, before his departure for Europe.

Arriving in London, he was awarded scholarships by the British Arts Council and the Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust to further and perfect his piano studies with Brigid Wilde and Claudio Arrau. He toured extensively, giving recitals and concerts in most London concert halls and elsewhere in the UK, France, Switzerland and the USA.

Continuing with his passion for the voice, he worked and collaborated with many of the very greatest opera singers including Dame Joan Sutherland, Martina Arroyo, June Bronhill, Grace Bumbry, Montserrat Caballe, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Leontyne Price and Dame Kiri te Kanawa.

He worked as assistant and soloist with many important orchestral conductors, including Warwick Braithwaite, Richard Bonyngé, Henry Kripps, Georges Sebastian, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Gianfranco Rivoli, Giuliano Carella, Roberto Benzi, Diego Masson and Maestro Veltri.

Whilst pursuing his solo piano career, Brian joined the music staff of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and became a conductor in various London West End Theatres including the Mermaid Theatre, the New London Theatre, Drury Lane, directing shows such as *Cole Porter* and *Treasure Island*.

In 1976 he was invited by the Director of Le Grand Theatre de Bordeaux, Gerard Boireau, to move to France and take up the position of Assistant Conductor. He swiftly established what was to become an important French strand to his career as a concert pianist, accompanist and conductor. Engagements rolled in from many major French theatres for recitals or as an orchestral soloist or opera conductor, including Toulouse, Beziers, Montpellier, Marseille, Reims, Toulon, Nimes, Nice, Saint Etienne, Rouen, Paris, Corsica and La Reunion. He was awarded the Medaille d’Or by many of these cities.

Concert tours took him also to Spain, Greece, Belgium, Italy, Sicily, Germany, Scandinavia and Austria, where he was awarded the Robert Stolz Medaille d'Or in Vienna.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Aldo Ciccolini appointed Brian Head of the Piano Faculty at the Pamplona Conservatorio "Pablo Sarasate" in Spain.

Recordings

- American Musical Comedies With the Royal Wallonie Orchestra in Belgium
- A Liszt CD with June Bronhill for Save the Children for EMI in London with June Bronhill
- Piano albums of Liszt, piano encores and Cole Porter with soprano Denny Dayviss for Esseffa in Bordeaux
- A piano album and Irish Songs with Patrick O'Hagan for Spotlight in Melbourne, Australia

1983

- Conducted and was soloist in an all-Gershwin programme at London's Barbican Centre, the third and youngest musician to perform this programme with the LSO following in the footsteps of André Previn and Leonard Bernstein. Brian received two "Musician of the Year" awards for this programme.

1986

- Formed L'Orchestre de Chambre de Toulon, with which he went on many tours of the Mediterranean coast
- Forming chamber orchestra Atlanta Camerata, with which he toured Corsica and South West of France, performing also at UNESCO Paris and the Mozart Festival Cannes as soloist and conductor
- Performed at the Festival Robert Stolz (on the 25th anniversary of his death) in Bordeaux and Paris with Soprano Denny Dayviss
- Performed at the tricentenary Montesquieu concerts in Bordeaux with musicians of Atlanta Camerata

1991

- Gave 40 concerts and recitals as conductor and soloist with Atlanta Camerata in celebration of Mozart's bicentenary

1993

- Conducted the Orchestre de Radio France for the world première of the opera *Le Surmale* in Rouen and Paris

1993 –1996

- Gave several concert tours in Australia

1996

- Was appointed Music Director and Conductor of Australian Chamber Opera in Sydney, for whom he conducted Bellini's *Norma* and Verdi's *Requiem*
- Introduced and brought the first opera concerts to Noumea (New Caledonia) along with the first school concerts

2000-2003

- Was appointed Music Director of Bordeaux International Choir, for whom he conducted Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and the first performance outside Vienna of Robert Stolz's opera *Die Rosen der Madonna* plus "100 Years of French Operetta", *The Messiah*, *Saint Cecilia Mass*, a programme of American Musical Comedies and *West Side Story*
- conducted *The Messiah* and gave concerts, recitals and masterclasses in Marbella and Malaga (Spain)

2007

- Directed and conducted the first opera performance in Crete, *Madama Butterfly*

FESTIVALS

Brian is Artistic and Music Director or a Guest Artist at the following festivals:

France – Le Mai de Bordeaux, Toulon, Beziers, Cannes, Vichy, Aix-en-Provence, Orange, Festival Jazz Draguignan, Corsica Bastia and Ajaccio "Festival Mediterranee"

Italy – Festival Puccini Torre del Lago, Verona (where he was awarded an Oscar)

Also festivals in Vienna, Athens and Marrakech.

THE FUTURE

Brian continues his busy career as concert pianist, music director and musical advisor, giving recitals and presenting masterclasses in the UK, France, Spain, Morocco and the USA (Miami New World School of Arts).

The 2013/2014 season includes recitals and concerts in London, France, Marrakech, Marbella and New Zealand (where he has been invited to perform a Gala Recital on 15th March 2014 by the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron in Auckland) with additional recitals and masterclasses in Australia February/March 2014.

brianstanborough.com