

Israel Gursky

Conductor



Israel Gursky, a rising young conductor, has been praised by the Washington Post for his "superb debut" with the Washington National Opera in 2007, leading performances of *Don Giovanni*. Last summer, Maestro Gursky led a concert with Plácido Domingo and Virginia Tola in Quebec which was televised live throughout Canada, and conducted a gala concert with Mr. Domingo and winners of the Operalia competition in Pecs, Hungary. This season he returned to PORTopera for *Hänsel und Gretel*, and is returning to Los Angeles Opera for *Le Nozze di Figaro* and to Washington National Opera for *Don Pasquale*. He will also be making his debut with Opera Birmingham conducting *Faust*.

During the 2008-2009 season, Maestro Gursky conducted performances of Howard Shore's opera *The Fly* at Los Angeles Opera; a critically acclaimed *Roméo et Juliette* at PORTopera (Portland, Maine); and *Albert Herring* at the University of Michigan. He has also conducted in several concerts with the orchestra of the Washington National Opera, including

performances with Plácido Domingo and Andrea Bocelli.

In recent seasons, Maestro Gursky conducted performances in China and Singapore with the Shanghai Opera Orchestra; productions of *Werther* at the University of Maryland and *Transformations* at Manhattan School of Music; and a concert with the Washington National Opera orchestra at the Strathmore Music Center.

Maestro Gursky has been an assistant conductor with the Washington National Opera since 2001, and has prepared more than 30 operas for the company. He has also served as assistant conductor and chorus master for the Wolf Trap Opera company from 2000 to 2006.

A frequent recital collaborator, he has performed with many singers including Anna Tomowa-Sintow, Bejun Mehta, Kate Aldrich, Laquita Mitchell, Paul Sperry and Eric Cutler in venues that include Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Weill Recital Hall and the 92nd St. He has appeared on French television, A&E channel's "Breakfast with the Arts" and on numerous radio broadcasts.

A native of Tel Aviv, Israel, he is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music and of Stony Brook University, where he earned his doctorate. Maestro Gursky was recently the winner of a conducting award from the George Solti Foundation. He serves on the faculty on Manhattan School of Music and resides in New York City.

Brian P. Jauhiainen, Manager
brian@belcantoglobal.com
718.772.4024

Amy D. Stuemky, Business Manager
amy@belcantoglobal.com
303.594.6649

Israel Gursky

Repertoire

Operatic

Bartók	<i>Bluebeard's Castle</i>
Britten	<i>Albert Herring</i>
Donizetti	<i>L'Elisir d'Amore</i>
	<i>Lucrezia Borgia</i>
Gershwin	<i>Porgy and Bess</i>
Gounod	<i>Roméo et Juliette</i>
Janáček	<i>Jenufa</i>
Massenet	<i>Werther</i>
Mozart	<i>Don Giovanni</i>
	<i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i>
Puccini	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>
	<i>La Bohème</i>
	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>
Saint-Saëns	<i>Samson et Dalila</i>
Shore	<i>The Fly</i>
Susa	<i>Transformations</i>
Thomas	<i>Hamlet</i>
Verdi	<i>Falstaff</i>
	<i>Rigoletto</i>

BCGA

Bel Canto Global Arts

Israel Gurky Repertoire, cont'd.

Symphonic

Barber	<i>Adagio for Strings</i>
Beethoven	<i>Symphonies No. 1, 3, 5, 7</i>
Berlioz	<i>Roman Carnival Overture</i> <i>Symphonie Fantastique</i>
Bernstein	<i>Symphonic Suite from "West Side Story"</i>
Brahms	<i>Haydn-Variations</i>
Copland	<i>Appalachian Spring</i>
Debussy	<i>Afternoon of the Faun</i> <i>La Mer</i>
Ginastera	<i>Variaciones Concertantes</i>
Mahler	<i>Symphony No. 4</i>
Mendelssohn	<i>Symphony no.4 "Italian"</i>
Menotti	<i>Amelia al Ballo Overture</i>
Mozart	<i>Symphonies No. 35, 39, & 40</i> <i>Magic Flute Overture</i>
Ravel	<i>Rhapsodie Espagnole</i>
Schumann	<i>Symphony No. 2</i>
Shostakovich	<i>Chamber Symphony, op. 110A</i>
R. Strauss	<i>Don Juan</i> <i>Tod und Verklärung</i>
Stravinsky	<i>Firebird Suite</i> <i>Petrushka (1947)</i>
Stucky	<i>Radical Light</i> <i>Spanisches Liederbuch Songs</i>
Tchaikovsky	<i>Symphony no.4</i> <i>Serenade for Strings</i>
Vaughn-Williams	<i>Serenade to Music</i>
Wagner	<i>Siegfried-Idyll</i>

Brian P. Jauhiainen, Manager
brian@belcantoglobal.com
718.772.4024

Amy D. Stuemky, Business Manager
amy@belcantoglobal.com
303.594.6649

BCGA

Bel Canto Global Arts

Gursky Repertoire, cont'd.

Operatic Repertoire Studied

Bellini	<i>Norma</i>
Britten	<i>Albert Herring</i> <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>
Handel	<i>Serse (Xerxes)</i> <i>Tamerlano</i>
Monteverdi	<i>L'incoronazione di Poppea</i>
Morreno Torroba	<i>Luisa Fernanda</i>
Mozart	<i>Idomeneo</i> <i>La Clemenza di Tito</i> <i>Le Nozze di Figaro</i>
Offenbach	<i>Les Contes d'Hoffmann</i>
Puccini	<i>Manon Lescaut</i> <i>Turandot</i>
R. Strauss	<i>Elektra</i>
Ravel	<i>L'enfant et les sortilèges</i>
Rossini	<i>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</i> <i>La Cenerentola</i> <i>L'Italiana in Algeri</i>
Tchaikovsky	<i>Maid of Orleans</i>
Verdi	<i>I Vespri Siciliani</i> <i>La Traviata</i>
Wagner	<i>Das Rheingold</i> <i>Die Walküre</i> <i>Götterdämmerung</i>
Weill	<i>Street Scene</i>

Brian P. Jauhiainen, Manager
brian@belcantoglobal.com
718.772.4024

Amy D. Stuemky, Business Manager
amy@belcantoglobal.com
303.594.6649

Israel Gursky

Press Reviews

Hänsel und Gretel

"PORTopera's new production of "Hansel and Gretel," which opened Thursday at Merrill Auditorium, has everything -- wonderful sets and costumes, excellent singing in all the roles, and some of the best orchestral music I've heard from the pit in years. Under conductor Israel Gursky, it even has echoes of Wagner." ([Click here](#) to read full review.)

-Christopher Hyde, *The Portland Press Herald*, 7/31/2010

"Humperdinck's score was in the capable hands of Israel Gursky who got things off to a glorious beginning with a gleaming reading of the overture that had Wagnerian breadth and allowed the music to soar and, well, do it's job. Throughout the evening Gursky struck an ideal balance never allowing the orchestra to cover the singers at any point, yet permitting the house to swell with sound at every climax. The band has rarely sounded better than they have here."

-Paul Padillo, *Sharkonarts.com*, 8/2/2010

Roméo et Juliette

"This year marked the company debut of Israel Gursky, a gifted young conductor whose quiet command drew lush, beautiful sounds from the pit. Tempos were brisk, and lines were shaped exquisitely: the climatic crowd scene, in which Mercutio and Tybalt are slain, was beautifully crafted by Gursky and Vaughn, with rousing well-executed swordplay choreographed by Mark Bedell."

-Judith Malafronte, *Opera News*, October 2008

"Vaughn's artistic direction, however, coupled with the superb conducting of Israel Gursky, reveals a thoroughly modern masterpiece... Gursky's orchestra, composed mainly of Portland Symphony musicians, was indistinguishable from that of the Metropolitan Opera and often better, for example in the moving cello and violin duos."

-Christopher Hyde, *Portland Press Herald*, July 26, 2008

BCGA

Bel Canto Global Arts

Don Giovanni

"What a superb house debut for conductor Israel Gursky. As the company's assistant conductor, he knows this orchestra, which put a full palette of color and texture at his disposal."

-Daniel Ginsberg, *The Washington Post*, November 10, 2007

"One sits for three hours as if facing a headwind that blows with passionate velocity from stage and orchestra pit, where WNO assistant conductor Israel Gursky made his main-stage debut as a man closely attuned to Pascoe's concept of the work."

-Wes Blomster, *Opera Today*, November 19, 2007

Brian P. Jauhiainen, Manager
brian@belcantoglobal.com
718.772.4024

Amy D. Stuemky, Business Manager
amy@belcantoglobal.com
303.594.6649

Israel Gursky

Conductor



(with Plácido Domingo)



(with Andrea Bocelli)

Brian P. Jauhiainen, Manager
brian@belcantoglobal.com
718.772.4024

Amy D. Stuemky, Business Manager
amy@belcantoglobal.com
303.594.6649