

Benjamin Pionnier

Conductor



Born in 1977, Benjamin Pionnier graduated from the Conservatoire National in Nice (France) in piano and chamber music. He also studied double-bass, singing, clarinet, harmony and counterpoint. After graduating, he continued studying with Brigitte Engerer, from the National Conservatory in Paris. He performed a lot as pianist and in chamber music in France and across Europe and the Middle-East.

He studied orchestral conducting in France before entering George Hurst's conducting classes in Great-Britain. He received a first prize in orchestral conducting with distinction. He is also laureate of the conducting competition in Manchester (Royal Northern College of Music). He was then chosen to participate in conducting master-classes across Europe.

Mr. Pionnier has assisted many famous conductors, most recently James Levine, who invited him to the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall.

He worked as répétiteur, vocal coach and assistant for many theaters, simultaneously to his career as pianist and accompanist. As pianist and conductor, Benjamin Pionnier takes part to many festivals: Pablo Casals Festival, Festival Messiaen, Monte-Carlo Spring Festival, Hong-Kong French May, Ambronay's Festival, Festival Manca, Festival Musiques au coeur, Festival Pierre Cardin, and Macao International Music Festival. He was Artistic Advisor for the Opera de Nice from 2006 to 2010.

He has conducted many operas, mainly in France, Europe and Asia, including works by Gounod, Rossini, Massenet, Offenbach, Mozart, Bizet, Donizetti, Verdi, Puccini, Lehar, and Gluck. His operatic repertoire is varied and naturally includes the main French operas: *Carmen*, *Manon*, *Les Contes d'Hoffman*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *Parisian Life*, *Werther*, *Faust*, and *Lakmé*, as well as the Italian and German repertoire.

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Benjamin Pionnier, cont'd.

His wide repertoire also includes symphonic works from baroque to contemporary music. He has recently conducted with many distinctions: *Così fan Tutte* by Mozart and *Parisian Life* by Offenbach in Paris; *Les Contes d'Hoffman* by Offenbach in Singapore; *Orpheus and Eurydice* by Gluck in Nice; *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* by Rossini; and many concerts with French orchestras on a wide repertoire. He has also conducted *Roméo et Juliette* by Gounod at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow for the opening of the French year in Russia.

He has just received a great success for his Bolshoi debuts, conducting there *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* by Ravel, and some R. Strauss *Lieder*. His recent performances of *Faust* by Gounod at the Teatro Argentino have also been unanimously praised.

His future plans include *The Pearl Fishers* by Bizet in Hong Kong, *Pelléas et Mélisande* by Debussy in Teatro Argentino, *Madama Butterfly* by Puccini, *Macbeth* by Verdi, *Lucia di Lammermoor* by Donizetti, *Don Giovanni* by Mozart, ballets and symphonic concerts in France, Europe, Asia and South America.

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