

Benjamin Pionnier

Conductor



Benjamin Pionnier graduated from the Conservatoire National de Region in Nice (France) in piano and chamber music. While there, he also studied double-bass, singing, clarinet, harmony and counterpoint. After graduating, he went on to study with Brigitte Engerer, from the National Conservatory in Paris.

He performed many times as a pianist and in chamber music in France and across Europe and Middle-East. He then studied orchestral conducting in France before entering George Hurst's conducting classes in Great Britain. He received first prize there in orchestral conducting with distinction. He is also a laureate of the conducting competition in Manchester (Royal Northern College of Music). He was then chosen to participate in conducting master classes across Europe. Simultaneous to his career as pianist and accompanist, Maestro Pionnier has worked as

repetiteur, vocal coach and assistant for many theaters in France and abroad.

As pianist and conductor, Maestro Pionnier has taken part in many festivals, including the 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 the Macao International Music Festival.

Benjamin Pionnier has also been assisting many famous conductors, most recently James Levine, who invited him to the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall.

He has conducted many operas - mainly in France, Europe and Asia - including works by Offenbach, Mozart, Bizet, Donizetti, Verdi, Puccini, Lehar, and Glück.

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Benjamin Pionnier, cont'd.

His operatic repertoire is varied and 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. His wide repertoire also includes symphonic works from baroque to contemporary music.

Operas he conducted most recently include the following: *La Vie Parisienne* in Paris, *Les Contes d'Hoffman* in Singapore, *Orpheus et Eurydice* in Nice, *Cosí fan tutte*; *Roméo et Juliette* in Moscow; and *La Jolie fille de Perth* in Switzerland. Upcoming engagements include *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at the Musiques au coeur Festival, as well as many concerts with french orchestras.

From 2006 to 2009, Maestro Pionnier has been Artistic Advisor at the Opéra de Nice. He works now more specifically with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice.

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Repertoire

Operatic

Bellini	<i>Norma</i>
Bizet	<i>Carmen</i>
	<i>Les Pêcheurs de Perles</i>
Delibes	<i>Lakmé</i>
Donizetti	<i>Don Pasquale</i>
	<i>L'Elisir d'Amore</i>
	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>
	<i>La Fille du Régiment</i>
Glück	<i>Orphée et Eurydice</i>
Gounod	<i>Faust</i>
	<i>Roméo et Juliette</i>
	<i>Mireille</i>
Händel	<i>Giulio Cesare</i>
	<i>Teseo</i>
Haydn	<i>Il Mondo della Luna</i>
Léhar	<i>Die Lustige Witwe</i>
	<i>Das Land des Lächelns</i>
Massenet	<i>Don Quichotte</i>
	<i>Werther</i>
	<i>Manon</i>
Menotti	<i>The Telephone</i>
Mozart	<i>Bastien und Bastienne</i>
	<i>Così fan tutte</i>
	<i>Die Entführung aus dem Serail</i>
	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>
	<i>Don Giovanni</i>
	<i>Idomeneo</i>

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Benjamin Pionnier, Repertoire, cont'd.

Offenbach	<i>La Belle Hélène</i> <i>La Grande Duchesse de Gérolstein</i> <i>La Périchole</i> <i>La Vie Parisienne</i> <i>Les Contes d'Hoffmann</i> <i>Orphée aux Enfers</i>
Puccini	<i>La Bohème</i> <i>Gianni Schicchi</i> <i>Il Tabarro</i> <i>Manon Lescaut</i> <i>Suor Angelica</i> <i>Tosca</i>
Rossini	<i>L'Italiana in Algeri</i> <i>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</i>
J. Strauss	<i>Die Fledermaus</i>
Tchaikovsky	<i>Eugene Onegin</i>
Verdi	<i>Aïda</i> <i>Rigoletto</i> <i>La Traviata</i> <i>Macbeth</i>
Weill	<i>Die sieben Todsünden</i>

Operatic (under preparation)

Beethoven	<i>Fidelio</i>
Bizet	<i>La Jolie Fille de Perth</i>
Britten	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>
Debussy	<i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i>
Dukas	<i>Ariane et Barbe-Bleue</i>
Massenet	<i>Thaïs</i>
Poulenc	<i>Dialogues des Carmélites</i>
Verdi	<i>Un Ballo in maschera</i> <i>Falstaff</i>

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Press Reviews

Les Contes d'Hoffman

"The Singapore Opera Orchestra, led in its pit debut by Benjamin Pionnier, was truly excellent in its sparkling, responsive account of the score."

- *The Business Times*, March 2009

Orphée et Eurydice

"Dirigé par Benjamin Pionnier, l'Orchestre philharmonique de Nice est d'une lisibilité totale, bien au point, au frémissement rare, d'une vérité stylistique entière."

- *Arts-spectacle.com*, April 2009

(Conducted by Benjamin Pionnier, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Nice has total clarity, well developed, with a rare thrill and a complete stylistic truth.)

Così fan tutte

"Il faut reconnaître par-dessus tout le grand mérite de Benjamin Pionnier, qui, malgré sa jeunesse, créa la surprise avec l'Orchestre de Cannes."

- *classiqueinfo.com*, June 2009

(We must recognize above all the great merit of Benjamin Pionnier, who, despite his youth, created a surprise with the Orchestra of Cannes.)

"L'Orchestre Régional de Cannes PACA, dans un très bon jour, est placé sous la baguette de Benjamin Pionnier. Direction attentive et musicienne, dans une optique plutôt chambriste, de mise avec l'esprit du plateau."

- *Opéra Magazine*, June 2009

(The regional orchestra of Cannes, in a very good light, was conducted by Benjamin Pionnier. Careful and musical conducting, gives a quite intimate point of view, totally appropriate with the spirit of the stage.)