DOSSIER / EN

# Nicholas Kok

Conductor



REPRESENTED BY KANTTILA MANAGEMENT

info@kanttilamanagement.com
+49 172 642 6891
Arcisstrasse 43, 80799 München

01 / PROFILE

# Biography

> *"This performance leaves one gaping in admiration... It is impossible to imagine a more favourable way of experiencing this enthralling music than by listening to this superbly engineered and presented release."*
>
> William Hedley, International Record Review

Nicholas Kok studied at New College, Oxford, as an organ scholar with the world-renowned New College Choir, and furthered his education at the Royal College of Music. From 1996 to 2006, he served as Chief Conductor of the East of England Orchestra (Sinfonia Viva) and was Chief Conductor of Psappha, North England's leading contemporary music ensemble, from 2007 to 2011. In 2012- 2013, he held the position of Principal Guest Conductor with the WDR Rundfunkchor. Mr. Kok is known for his extensive and diverse repertoire, conducting both in concert halls and opera houses.

At the English National Opera, Mr. Kok directed works including Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* and *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Così fan tutte*, as well as two world premieres by Mark-Anthony Turnage. With Opera North, he led productions of *Dido and Aeneas*, *Les Noces*, Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, and premiered *The Nightingale's to Blame* by Simon Holt and *Pleasure* by Mark Simpson, the latter in collaboration with the Royal Opera. In 2018, Mr. Kok conducted the British premiere of Kevin Puts's *Silent Night* at Opera North.

At the Staatsoper Stuttgart, his productions have included *King Arthur*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *L'italiana in Algeri*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *Iphigénie en Aulis*, and *Orphée*. In 2012-2013, he was the musical director for a new production of *Schaf* at the Junge Oper (JOIN), for which he composed and arranged a version of *King Arthur* in 2020. Most recently, in 2023, he conducted a new production of *Cabaret* at the Staatstheater Stuttgart. His engagements as a conductor have also included performances at the opera houses of Leipzig, Bielefeld, Braunschweig, Porto, Cologne, Magdeburg, Teatro de São Carlos in Lisbon, Music Theatre Wales, English Touring Opera, and Opera Factory.

Mr. Kok has participated in numerous festivals, such as the Aldeburgh Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, BBC Proms, Zürich Contemporary Music Festival, and Éclat Stuttgart Sommerfestival. He has collaborated with nearly every BBC Orchestra, as well as the Gewandhaus, Philharmonia, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Hallé, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, RSO Berlin, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, and the Munich Chamber Orchestra. His work with prominent ensembles includes Ascolta, Nash Ensemble, Ensemble Premiere, and Remix. He has also made numerous recordings for radio and CD.

02 / CURRICULUM VITAE

# Education & career

1991-present

### Freelance conductor

Opera and ballet companies, orchestras, choirs and ensembles · Also pianist, répétiteur, arranger and composer

1984-1985

### Conducting & répétiteur work

Royal College of Music, London

1981-1984

### MA Music · Organ Scholar

University of Oxford · New College



03 / SELECTED

# Appointments

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2012/13 | Principal Guest Conductor | WDR Rundfunkchor |
| 2007-2011 | Chief Conductor | Psappha |
| 1996-2006 | Chief Conductor and Artistic Adviser | Sinfonia ViVA |
| 1989-1992 | Répétiteur and conductor | English National Opera |
| 1985-1987 | Music Director | Janet Smith and Dancers |

04 / PROFILE

# Further details

### Other activities

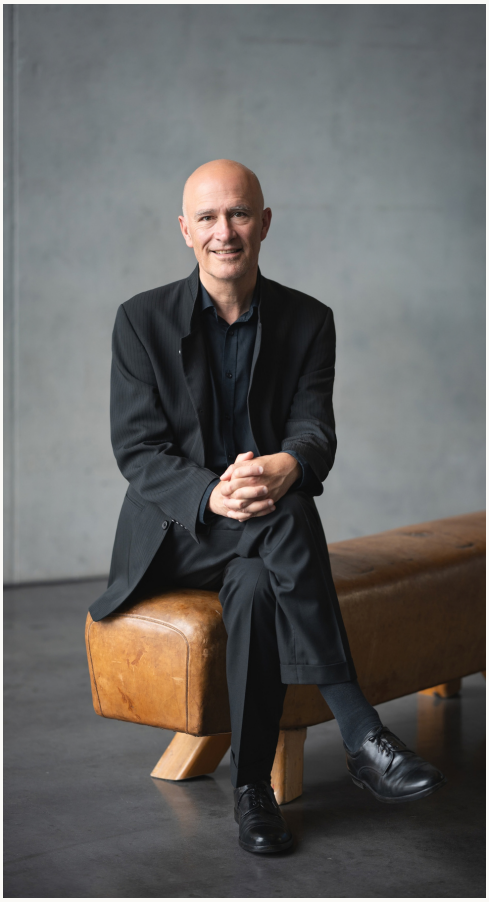
Pianist · répétiteur · arranger · composer

### Qualifications

MA Oxon. · Fellow of the Royal College of Organists

### Recordings

Numerous studio recordings with the BBC Singers over a period of 25 years



05 / LANGUAGES

# Languages

English native · German · French · Italian

06 / HOUSES · COMPANIES · SELECTED

# Opera & ballet

Aldeburgh Festival

Almeida Opera

Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre

Birmingham Royal Ballet

Coliseu do Porto

Dublin Grand Opera

English National Opera

JOIN · Junge Oper Stuttgart

Music Theatre Wales

Opera Factory London

Opera Factory Zürich

Oper Graz

Oper Klagenfurt

Oper Köln

Oper Leipzig

Opera North

Opera St. Louis · USA

Royal Swedish Ballet · Stockholm

Scottish Ballet

Scottish Dance Theatre

Staatsoper Stuttgart

Staatstheater Braunschweig

Stadttheater Hagen

Streetwise Opera

Teatro Nacional de São Carlos · Lisbon

Theater Bielefeld

Theater Magdeburg

Royal Opera House Covent Garden · Co-production

07 / COLLABORATIONS

# Orchestras · choirs · ensembles

Ascolta

BBC Concert Orchestra

BBC National Orchestra of Wales

BBC Singers

BBC Symphony Orchestra

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Gewandhausorchester

Hallé

Het Gelders Orkest

Jenaer Philharmonie

Liepāja Symphony Orchestra

London Philharmonic Orchestra

London Sinfonietta

Münchner Kammerorchester

Nash Ensemble

New London Chamber Choir

Orquestra Nacional de São Carlos Lisbon

Orquestra do Porto

Ensemble Resonanz

RSO Berlin

RTÉ Symphony Orchestra

Schola Cantorum Oxford

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

SWR Vokalensemble

Ulster Orchestra

WDR Rundfunkchor

08 / SELECTED

# Festivals & academic productions

## Festivals

Aldeburgh Festival · BBC Proms · Buxton Opera Festival · Cantiere Internazionale d’Arte di Montepulciano · Cheltenham Festival · Éclat · Edinburgh International Festival · Huddersfield · Orkney · Southbank · Sound Around Copenhagen/Malmö · Torino

## Academic institutions

Opera school, HMDK Stuttgart · Guildhall School of Music and Drama · Royal Academy of Music London · Royal College of Music Stockholm · Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts · Royal Northern College of Music Manchester · National Opera Studio · Royal Conservatoire of Scotland · Trinity College of Music

09 / SELECTED

# Compositions & arrangements

1986

### A Night on the Songs

Musical

World premiere

Framlingham College

2011

### 7th Degree

Julian Bliss and Sinfonia ViVA

2012

### Variations

Lancashire Sinfonietta

2016-2020

### Songs for Die Alte Mädchen

Several compositions

2017-2020

### Pieces for the Hanke Brothers

Several works

2018

### Dona Nobis Pacem

Nürtinger Ensemble

2019

### Psalm 126

Nürtinger Ensemble

2020/21

### Artus

Reworking of Purcell’s King Arthur

Junge Oper Stuttgart

2021

### The Waste

Chamber opera

HMDK Stuttgart

10 / SELECTED RECORDINGS

# CD & DVD

Purcell · The Fairy Queen · DVD · English National Opera · 1995

Stupid Dream · Sinfonia ViVA · 1999

Suites and Serenades · Sinfonia ViVA · 1999

Pauline Viardot · Cendrillon · Opera Rara · Also pianist · 2001

Busted · Music by Steve Mackey · Psappha

Detours · Music by Gordon McPherson · Psappha · 2004

Emily Hall · Think About Space · London Sinfonietta · 2008

William Attwood · Iwwer Tierman · London Sinfonietta · 2008

Facades · Contemporary Works for Saxophone · 2009

Zimmermann · Requiem für einen jungen Dichter · DVD · WDR · 2012 · Singer and rehearsal preparation

Birtwistle · The Moth Requiem · BBC Singers / Nash Ensemble · 2014 · Gramophone Award shortlist

Dinosaur · Music by Ben Foskett · Psappha · 2014

Theatre of Attractions · Music by Kenneth Hesketh · Psappha

Errolyn Wallen · Photography · Ensemble X / Matthew Sharp · 2015

Brian Elias · Geranos · Psappha · 2016

Assisting and banda conducting on numerous Opera Rara recordings

Die Alte Mädchen · Three recorded songs · 2019-2022

## Publications

### VOCAL SCORES

Vocal scores of several choral works for Carus-Verlag: choruses by Haydn and Mozart, Bruckner’s Te Deum and Mahler’s Symphonies Nos. 2 and 3. According to the source CV, Mahler’s Symphony No. 8 is planned for publication.