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Culture | Communications  
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## **ELCCNY NEWS**

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### **DAVID ROBERTSON 2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS**

**DAVID ROBERTSON OPENS THE 2019-20 METROPOLITAN OPERA SEASON**

*The Gershwins' PORGY and BESS*

**NEW PRODUCTION BY JAMES ROBINSON**

**With ERIC OWENS and ANGEL BLUE**

**All Performances, September 23, 2019 – February 1, 2020**

**SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**Valedictory Season as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director Culminates November 21 – 30**

**MESSIAEN's *TURANGALÎLA-SYMPHONIE***

**AMERICAN HARMONIES – ADAMS, COPLAND, ROUSE**

**DAVID ROBERTSON and the HOUSTON SYMPHONY**

**John Adams' *EL NIÑO***

**March 14 – 15, 2020**

**DAVID ROBERTSON TO JOIN TIANJIN JUILLIARD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**As Juilliard Director of Conducting Studies, Distinguished Visiting Faculty**

**Robertson to Conduct The Juilliard Orchestra**

**MAHLER SYMPHONY No. 5**

**New York Premiere of Steven Mackey's *Beautiful Passing* for Violin and Orchestra**

**Carnegie Hall – February 25, 2020**

**ROBERTSON RETURNS TO STAATSKAPELLE DRESDEN**

**And CZECH PHILHARMONIC**

***Bluebeard's Castle* with Elena Zhidova and Matthias Goerne in Dresden, November 10 – 12**

**Steve Reich, Bartók and Beethoven in Prague, February 6 – 8, 2020**

**ROBERTSON CONDUCTS NEW JAPAN PHILHARMONIC**

**Stravinsky, Handel, Corelli, December 6 – 7, Sumida, Japan**

**TWO LAST RECORDINGS WITH ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA RELEASED**

**WYNTON MARSALIS' SWING SYMPHONY**

**With the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, Blue Engine Records**

**MOZART PIANO CONCERTOS**

**No. 17 in G Major K.453 and No. 24 in C Minor K.491, with Orli Shaham, Canary Classics**

David Robertson will conduct The Metropolitan Opera's 2019-20 season opening premiere production of The Gershwins' *Porgy and Bess*, directed by James Robinson and starring Eric Owens and Angel Blue. Robertson will conduct all 14 performances, beginning with the Opening Night Gala on September 23, 2019, and ending on February 1, 2020. *Porgy and Bess* is a co-production with the Dutch National Opera and the English National Opera.

An independent-minded musical explorer and champion of the art form, David Robertson marks the grand finale of his six-year tenure as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra with music of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The celebratory concerts take place November 21 – 30, 2019, and feature Messiaen's *Turangalila-Symphonie*, and American Harmonies: works by John Adams, Christopher Rouse, and Aaron Copland. Robertson will continue to conduct the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in future seasons, as the Sydney Opera House, the Orchestra's home, undergoes renovation.

Deepening his role as Director of Conducting Studies, Distinguished Visiting Faculty of The Juilliard School, which began with the 2018-19 academic year, Robertson has been invited to join the Tianjin Juilliard Advisory Council. The international body, consisting of noted artists, administrators and academics, is chaired by conductor Long Yu, and will advise and guide Juilliard's new Chinese campus as its Pre-College division begins classes in September 2019, and toward the matriculation of its first Graduate students in Fall 2020. As teacher of the art and practice of conducting, David Robertson uses a wide range of repertoire from the 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries to draw aspiring conductors into the rapidly evolving sensibility of orchestral vision and leadership. Preparation for a significant public performance is a key part of the program, and students will participate in the process for Robertson's February 25, 2020, performance with The Juilliard Orchestra of Mahler's Symphony No. 5, and the New York premiere of Steven Mackey's *Beautiful Passing* for Violin and Orchestra (2008), commissioned by the BBC Philharmonic and St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

Continuing one of the richest, ongoing collaborations of his musical life, Robertson revisits John Adams' major opera-oratorio on the birth and life of Christ, *El Niño* – with the Houston Symphony, March 14 – 15, 2020. The production will feature Susanna Phillips, Kelley O'Connor, Davóne Tines, Daniel Bubeck, Brian Cummings, Nathan Medley, the Houston Grand Opera Children's Chorus, and the Houston Symphony Chorus. In the 2019-20 season, David Robertson continues his international musical journey with returns to the Staatskapelle Dreden and Czech Philharmonic. In Dresden, he conducts *Bluebeard's Castle* with Elena Zhidova and Matthias Goerne in Dresden, November 10 – 12, 2019. In Prague Robertson conducts works by Steve Reich, Bartók and Beethoven, February 6 – 8, 2020. Robertson will conduct the New Japan Philharmonic in Sumida, in a textured program including works by Stravinsky, Handel and Corelli. Details and information about additional highlights will be announced.

To complete his historic association with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, two final recordings have been released: Wynton Marsalis' Swing Symphony, with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, on Blue Engine Records; and Mozart Piano Concertos, No. 17 in G Major K.453 and No. 24 in C Minor K.491, with Orli Shaham, on Canary Classics. Both recordings are available through multiple music retail sources.

For more information, visit:

Website: [ConductorDavidRobertson.com](http://ConductorDavidRobertson.com)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/ConductorDavidRobertson](https://www.facebook.com/ConductorDavidRobertson)

## **DAVID ROBERTSON**

David Robertson – conductor, artist, thinker, and American musical visionary – occupies some of the most prominent platforms on the international music scene. A highly sought-after podium figure in the worlds of opera, orchestral music, and new music, Robertson is celebrated worldwide as a champion of contemporary composers, an ingenious and adventurous programmer, and a masterful communicator whose passionate advocacy for the art form is widely recognized. A consummate and deeply collaborative musician, Robertson is hailed for his intensely committed music making.

Building upon his dynamic association with The Metropolitan Opera, Robertson conducts the Met's 2019-20 season opening production of The Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, directed by James Robinson, and featuring Eric Owens and Angel Blue. On the podium for all fourteen performances of the opera, through early February 2020, David Robertson also returns to the Sydney Symphony Orchestra to complete his 2019 valedictory season as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director with American and French music of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Robertson will continue to conduct the Sydney Symphony Orchestra in future seasons as the city undertakes a major renovation of its beloved Sydney Opera House.

In Fall 2019, David Robertson joins the newly formed Tianjin Juilliard Advisory Council, an international body created to guide the young Chinese campus of the Juilliard School, complementing his role as Director of Conducting Studies, Distinguished Visiting Faculty. In the 2019-20 season, Robertson continues his prolific collaboration with composer John Adams, conducting performances of his opera-oratorio *El Niño* with the Houston Symphony. In addition to numerous international musical endeavors this season, Robertson returns to the Staatskapelle Dresden and Czech Philharmonic, and conducts the Netherlands Radio Symphony, the New Japan Philharmonic, and, in New York, The Juilliard Orchestra at Carnegie Hall.

In 2018, David Robertson completed his transformative 13-year tenure as Music Director of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, where he solidified the orchestra's status as one of the nation's most enduring and innovative. For the SLSO, he established fruitful relationships with a wide spectrum of artists, and garnered a 2014 Grammy Award for Best Orchestral Performance for the Nonesuch release of John Adams' *City Noir*. Completing the historic Robertson-SLSO association, two final recordings were released in 2019: Wynton Marsalis' *Swing Symphony*, with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, on Blue Engine Records; and *Mozart Piano Concertos, No. 17 in G Major K.453 and No. 24 in C Minor K.491*, with Orli Shaham, on Canary Classics.

In addition to Sydney and St. Louis, Robertson has served in artistic leadership positions at musical institutions including the Orchestre National de Lyon, and, as a protégé of Pierre Boulez, the Ensemble InterContemporain, which he led on its first North American tour. At the BBC Symphony Orchestra, he served as Principal Guest Conductor. Robertson has served as a Perspectives Artist at Carnegie Hall, where he has conducted, among others, The Met Orchestra, the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He appears regularly in Europe with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Czech Philharmonic, the Symphonieorchester des

Bayerischen Rundfunk, the Dresden Staatskapelle, and at the Berlin Festival, the Edinburgh Festival, the BBC Proms, and the Musica Viva Festival in Munich.

Robertson's longstanding relationship with the Met Opera includes the premiere of Phelim McDermott's celebrated Spring 2018 production of *Così fan tutte*, set in 1950s Coney Island. Since his Met debut in 1996, with *The Makropulos Case*, he has conducted a breathtaking range of Met projects, including the Met premiere of John Adams' *The Death of Klinghoffer* (2014); the 2016 revival of Janáček's *Jenůfa*, then its first Met performances in nearly a decade; the premiere production of Nico Muhly's *Two Boys* (2013); and many favorites, from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* to Britten's *Billy Budd*. Robertson has frequent projects at the world's most prestigious opera houses, including La Scala, Théâtre du Châtelet, Bayerische Staatsoper (orchestra), the San Francisco Opera, and the Santa Fe Opera.

Robertson is the recipient of numerous musical and artistic awards, and in 2010 was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the Government of France. He is devoted to supporting young musicians and has worked with students at the festivals of Aspen, Tanglewood, Lucerne, at the Paris Conservatoire, Music Academy of the West, and the National Orchestra Institute. In 2014, he led the Coast to Coast tour of Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra of the USA.

Born in Santa Monica, California, David Robertson was educated at London's Royal Academy of Music, where he studied horn and composition before turning to orchestral conducting. He is married to pianist Orli Shaham, and lives in New York.

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