

# SEATTLE OPERA.

## **Aidan Lang**

### **Seattle Opera General Director**

Selected by the Seattle Opera Board of Trustees after a two-year, international search process, Aidan Lang became Seattle Opera's General Director on September 1, 2014. Before moving to Seattle, as General Director of New Zealand Opera from 2006 to 2013 Lang strove to ensure that every production was theatrically stimulating and musically ambitious. Working collaboratively is a top priority for Lang, and during his tenure New Zealand Opera implemented a series of collaborations with opera companies around the world. Simultaneously, Lang expanded New Zealand Opera's reach to include performances in Christchurch, in addition to its venues in Auckland and Wellington, rebranding New Zealand Opera as a truly national company. Lang also established New Zealand's first-ever opera production workshop, creating the capacity to build opera productions in the country.

Prior to leading New Zealand Opera, Aidan Lang held artistic leadership positions at **Buxton Festival**, **Glyndebourne Festival Opera**, **Glyndebourne Touring Opera**, and **Opera Zuid** in the Netherlands. Concurrent with these leadership positions, Lang was a sought after freelance director working around the world. Among other productions, he directed the first Brazilian production of Wagner's *Ring* at the historic Teatro Amazonas in Manaus. Born in 1957 in the UK, Lang is a graduate of The Tiffin School and the University of Birmingham. He relocated to Seattle with his wife of 24 years, the former soprano Linda Kitchen, and their 17-year-old daughter, Eleanor. In addition to his operatic leadership skills and international directing experience, Lang is an accomplished musician, having studied clarinet since the age of 8.

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