



PATRICK HANSEN

Patrick Hansen continues his unique career throughout North America as an operatic conductor, vocal coach, and stage director. Currently he is the Director of Opera Studies at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University in Montreal, Quebec.

For his conducting of Bartok's operatic masterpiece *Bluebeard's Castle*, *New York Times* critic Anthony Tommasini praised his "lithic pacing and vivid colors" while Pulitzer prize-winning *Financial Times* critic Martin Bernheimer wrote "Hansen respected the delicate balance between passion and introspection. He made much of Bartok's epic essay in psycho-sexual angst." David Patrick Stearns in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted "Hansen revealed another side of the score: stroke after stroke of musical characterization that's often obscured by dazzling orchestral color, skillfully drawing the ear into the two characters' hearts of darkness."

His stagings have garnered praise in both Canada and the United States. Wayne Gooding in *Opera Canada*: "Director Patrick Hansen...captured the opera's bohemian vitality and evoked – which, unfortunately, many productions fail to do – the city of Paris itself as the characterful backdrop to the action. When he ran out of space for the crowd in Act II, the crowd simply spilled down into the auditorium... the comic business was well handled... The acting, indeed, was a strong point throughout." and Arthur Kaptainis in *The Gazette*: "After the Opera McGill performance on Friday I wanted to see it again...The eight singers were nicely cast...Director Patrick Hansen made a fair case for the drama. The violation [of Lucretia] involved some Etrusco-Roman wrestling and an almost literally blinding coup de theater: Lights flare and Tarquinius suddenly drops his robe, and becomes pure animal. It was a good invention."

Mr. Hansen has been on the musical staffs of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Pittsburgh Opera, Tulsa Opera, Opera Memphis, Des Moines Metro Opera, Ash Lawn Opera, The Juilliard Opera Center, and Glimmerglass Opera as well as being the Director of Artistic Administration for Florida Grand Opera during the opening of the half-billion dollar downtown Miami arts centre.

At ease in opera and musical theatre, his stage directing credits encompass the entire spectrum of repertoire now being presented by opera companies: *Così fan tutte*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *La Fille du régiment*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *La traviata*, *Dialogue des Carmélites*, *Albert Herring*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *La bohème*, *The Rape of Lucretia* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as the baroque specialties *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *Orfeo ed Euridice*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *Imeneo*, *Thésée*, *Agrippina*, *Alcina* and the musicals *Camelot* and *Trouble in Tahiti*.

The former director of the Young American Artist Program at Glimmerglass Opera, Mr. Hansen recently presented masterclasses and coachings with the Young Artists of Virginia Opera and returned to the Kennedy Center for his fourth collaboration as stage director with the Washington Chorus' "Essential Verdi". Recent productions include directing Strauss Jr's *Die Fledermaus*, Adamo's *Little Women*, and Handel's *Rodelinda* and *Alcina* for Opera McGill, *Die Zauberflöte* for Fargo-Moorhead Opera, and conducting *Die Fledermaus* for Toronto's newest opera company: Opera5. This March, Opera McGill produces the world's first Opera B!NGE Festival: 7 Operas in 24 hours!