

KRISTOF VAN GRYSPEER

CONDUCTOR – PIANIST – VOCAL COACH

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Kristof Van Gryspeer, a native of Belgium, is emerging as a thrilling talent in the conducting world. The Orange County Register recently hailed him as “gifted and stylistically impeccable.” With a strong background and knowledge of the vocal repertoire Van Gryspeer is Music Director and conductor of several operatic organizations, such as the **Intimate Opera Company**, **SongFest**’s Young Artist opera program and **Angels Vocal Arts Center**, which organizes workshops with Italian tenor legend Carlo Bergonzi. As a vocal coach, he established a flourishing studio in Pasadena.

Van Gryspeer most recently conducted the critically-acclaimed **Intimate Opera Company** productions of *La Traviata*, *The Mikado*, *Die Fledermaus* and *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. He also directed *Hansel and Gretel* and *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Upcoming productions this year include *La Tragédie de Carmen* and *Rigoletto*.

As assistant conductor at **Opera Pacific** Van Gryspeer assisted John DeMain and Edoardo Muller in the productions of *L’Elisir d’Amore*, *La Boheme*, *The Magic Flute*, *Susannah* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.

In 2005, the **Baltimore Opera** appointed Van Gryspeer as Music Director for their Young Artist program, where he conducted *L’Elisir d’Amore*. The **Bakersfield Symphony** engaged him as Music Director for their operatic concerts, such as *Fidelio*, highlights of *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Carmen*, and concerts centered around Puccini and Wagner. In 2003, named acting Music Director of the **USC Opera**, he prepared and conducted *The Magic Flute*, *The Impresario*, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Così fan Tutte*.

Van Gryspeer served as chorus master and associate conductor for *Volo di Notte*, *Il Tabarro*, *Jenufa*, *La Périchole* and *Trois Opéras Minutes* at the **Long Beach Opera**. In 2003 he returned as guest conductor and premiered Nicholas Chase’s *Twenty-two (Taker of the Total Chance)*. In 2006 he was assistant conductor for *The Ring of the Nibelung*.

As Music Director of the Belgian **Royal Choir De Mandelgalm** and founder of his own orchestra **Arte Nobile**, Van Gryspeer conducted Haydn’s *The Creation* among others. Van Gryspeer served as chorus master at the **Aspen Opera Center** and also participated in the **Tanglewood Music Center Vocal Program**, where he coached Ligeti’s *Grand Macabre*. He was on staff at the **California Conducting Workshop** where he taught vocal coaching.

As a pianist and chamber musician, Van Gryspeer collaborated with leading instrumentalists and singers, such as violinist Maria Newman, tenor Philip Webb and soprano Juliana Gondek. Van Gryspeer can be heard on several CD albums and he also recorded for **K-Mozart** and the **Flemish and Swiss Radio and Television**.

Van Gryspeer has been honored with numerous awards and fellowships, including the prestigious Fulbright Grant. At the **USC Thornton School of Music**, he completed a Doctorate and two Master of Music degrees, all with highest honors, with major fields in keyboard collaborative arts and orchestral conducting. He also studied at the **Conservatories of Liège** and **Ghent** (Belgium) where he obtained Concert Diplomas for both piano and chamber music.