



Photo credit: Benjamin Durrant

Bertie Baigent, conductor

British-born Bertie Baigent is rapidly gaining an international reputation as an exciting and dynamic conductor-composer. Currently Assistant Conductor of the Colorado Symphony, Music Director of Waterperry Opera Festival, and Principal Guest Conductor of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra, Bertie has worked with other ensembles including the St Louis and Dallas symphony orchestras, the Britten Sinfonia, the London Sinfonietta, Hampstead Garden Opera, and Shadwell Opera. Bertie has assisted conductors including Sir Mark Elder, Edward Gardner, and Jac van Steen, and participated in masterclasses with Martyn Brabbins, Pierre-André Valade, and as part of the Dirigentenforum in Germany. In 2018 Bertie was the youngest semi-finalist in the London Symphony Orchestra Donatella Flick Conducting Competition, and in 2017 conducted the WDR-Sinfonieorchester and Gürzenich-Orchester as part of the Deutscher Dirigentenpreis in Cologne. He is the recipient of the prestigious Ernest Read Prize and Sir Henry Wood Scholarship from the Royal Academy of Music.

Contemporary music is especially important to Bertie, with recent performances including the world premiere of Peter Learn's *Nero Monologues* for Opera-in-the-City with the Phaedra Ensemble, and collaborations with 4|12 Collective and the Royal Academy Contemporary Ensemble.

Baigent's compositions have been widely performed by ensembles including the Aurora Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, and the viol consort Fretwork. He has been awarded prizes and commissions by institutions such as the BBC, the Royal Philharmonic Society, St Paul's Cathedral, the National Centre for Early Music, and the Bath Philharmonia. He is published by Stainer & Bell and his works have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Classic FM, and other European radio stations.

Baigent is a prize-winning Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and trained as a cellist and pianist before focusing on conducting and composition. He read music at the University of Cambridge, winning the Donald Wort Prize and graduating with a double first in 2016; subsequently he completed his master's at the Royal Academy of Music in London, graduating with distinction and Diploma of the Royal Academy of Music (DipRAM) in 2018.