



Photo credit: Marije Schot

## Bertie Baigent, conductor

Described as 'a force to be reckoned with' (*Opera Magazine*), British-born Bertie Baigent has been Music Director of Waterperry Opera Festival since 2017 and recently completed his two-year tenure as Assistant Conductor of the Colorado Symphony. In the orchestral world, recent and forthcoming engagements include the St Louis Symphony Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Orchestra Teatro Regio Torino, Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini Parma, New Japan Philharmonic, and NHK Symphony Orchestra. As winner designate of the International Conducting Competition Rotterdam, he will also return to the Netherlands in 2022 to conduct the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, Doelen Ensemble, and Sinfonia Rotterdam. Baigent recently won 3rd prize,

orchestra prize, and the special Hideo Saito prize at the Tokyo International Conducting Competition, and was immediately re-invited for subsequent engagements in Japan.

Recent opera work includes acclaimed productions of *L'elisir d'amore* and *Così fan tutte* at Waterperry, as well as performances of *Dido & Aeneas* and *Partenope*, directing both from the harpsichord. In 2022 he will conduct the world premiere of his own *Paradise Lost* for Shipwright Theatre in London. Elsewhere in the 2021/22 season Baigent will assist with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, direct performances of *Messiah* from the harpsichord, and conduct world premiere recordings for Shadwell Opera. Equally at home in the world of contemporary music recent collaborations have included projects with the London Sinfonietta, Phaedra Ensemble, and 4|12 Collective, conducting both his own works and numerous world premieres.

While working with the Colorado Symphony Baigent assisted Music Director Brett Mitchell as well as guest conductors including Jun Märkl, Alexander Shelley, Carlos Kalmar, and Rossen Milanov; elsewhere Baigent has assisted conductors such as Sir Mark Elder, Masaaki Suzuki, Edward Gardner, and Finnegan Downie Dear, also serving as cover conductor for the St Louis and Dallas symphony orchestras. Baigent has participated in masterclasses with Martyn Brabbins, Jac van Steen, and with the Dirigentenforum in Germany. Baigent is also committed to music education; while working with the Colorado Symphony he devised, presented, and conducted education programmes reaching more than 26,000 school children in a year, as well as giving pre-concert talks and public interviews.

Baigent's compositions have been widely performed by ensembles including the Aurora Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, and the BBC Singers, in venues such as Washington National Cathedral and the Royal Festival Hall. He has been awarded prizes and commissions by institutions such as the BBC, the Royal Philharmonic Society, and St Paul's Cathedral. Baigent 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 the special DipRAM award.