

STEVEN HILLINGER - BIOGRAPHY

Steven Hillinger graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1992 from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music studying French Horn with Anthony Buddle and received the Richard Merewether Memorial Scholarship for French Horn in 1991. Steven has performed with orchestras including the Australian Chamber Orchestra, The Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra and the Sydney Philharmonia Orchestra.

In 1993 Steven completed a Graduate Diploma in Conducting at the Sydney Conservatorium, studying with Henryk Pisarek. In 1994 Steven was offered a place in the Master of Music course, graduating in 1997, with John Hopkins as his teacher. This was the first time a Masters in Conducting had been offered.

In 1993 and 1994 Steven was awarded the Alan Bellhouse Memorial Scholarship for Conducting.

Steven has conducted many orchestras including the Willoughby, Penrith, Mosman and University of New South Wales Symphony Orchestras, the Ku-ring-gai and East-West Philharmonic Orchestras, the Cove Chamber Orchestra, The Occasional Performing Sinfonia, the Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, and in 1994 was shortlisted to audition for the position of Assistant Conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. In 1995 Steven participated in a conducting masterclass given by David Porcelijn, and in that same year conducted at the Sixth Sydney International Spring Festival. Steven was a finalist the 1997, 1998 and 2000 Westfield Young Conductor of the Year Awards with the Queensland, Adelaide and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras respectively and was awarded a TOAN Conductor in the Community Fellowship on each occasion.

In 1998, Steven was awarded a Queen's Trust grant to visit Europe to continue his research into music repressed by the Nazis.

Steven was the conductor of the Lane Cove Youth Orchestra through 1998, Fisher's Ghost Youth Orchestra between 1998 and 2000, Sydney Youth Brass in 2000, Shore School Symphony Orchestra from 2005 to 2006, and was Musical Director of the City of Sydney Wind Ensemble from 2001 to 2006. Steven also worked extensively with the Sydney Youth Orchestra's Association between 2001 and 2007, conducting the Sydney Youth Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra and Symphonic Wind Orchestra. Steven has also worked as Assistant Conductor with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

In both January 2003 and 2009, Steven toured to Eastern Europe with the North Sydney Girls High School Symphony Orchestra and in March 2005 took the Symphony and Wind Orchestras on a tour of China. In September 2005 he undertook a tour of Eastern Europe with the Ascham School Symphony Orchestra and in 2008 took them on a tour of China.

As well as a large amount of guest conducting, at present, Steven is conducting the Ascham School Symphony Orchestra, North Sydney Girls High School Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra and Concert Band, University of New South Wales Wind Band and the North Sydney Symphony Orchestra.