



Nicholas Milton - Conductor

Nicholas Milton has established a reputation as one of the leading Australian conductors of his generation. He was appointed Chief Conductor of the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra in 2001 and the reputation of the organization during his exciting tenure has grown dramatically. The Willoughby Symphony Orchestra is now regularly recognized by the Orchestras Australia network as the finest community orchestra in the country. Nicholas Milton's ongoing association with this unique group of musicians has helped to transform the orchestra into an ensemble that performs at the highest artistic level and whose interaction with its community is vibrant and exhilarating. Nicholas attended Chatswood Primary School, and though he now spends most of his time in Europe, he still maintains a home in the lower North Shore and is exceedingly proud to continue his long and fruitful cooperation with his beloved local orchestra in Willoughby.

Nicholas Milton is currently also General Music Director and Chief Conductor of the Jena Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany and Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. Current and forthcoming European highlights include appearances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Berlin Konzerthaus Orchester, Staatskapelle Weimar, NDR Radiophilharmonie, Orchestre de Picardie, as well as the orchestras of Dortmund, Rostock, Wiesbaden, Innsbruck, Copenhagen, Regensburg, Dessau, and Nice. He is receiving particular acclaim for his interpretations of the symphonies of Mahler and in the current season his survey of the entire cycle continues with performances of the Ninth Symphony on tour in Germany and France, the Third Symphony with the China National Symphony Orchestra for the opening of the National

Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, and he conducts the Second, Fourth, Fifth, and Seventh symphonies and *Das Lied von der Erde* in Germany. Milton served as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra from 2000-2004, made his United States debut in 2005 with the Phoenix Symphony, and regularly conducts in Finland. He has appeared as a guest conductor with all of Australia's major orchestras.

Nicholas Milton is also a devoted interpreter of opera. In recent seasons he has conducted new productions in Germany of *Marriage of Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart), *Hänsel und Gretel* (Humperdinck), and *Die Fledermaus* (Johann Strauss). Other opera credits include *Don Giovanni*, *The Barber of Seville*, *La Traviata*, *Il Trovatore*, *Carmen*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Don Pasquale*, and Franz Schmidt's masterpiece, *Das Buch mit sieben Siegeln* (The Book with Seven Seals) at the German National Theater in Weimar. In 2009 he will conduct new productions of *Undine* (Hans Werner Henze) and Smetana's *Bartered Bride*. Also an international advocate for contemporary Australian orchestral music, Milton this season conducts world and European premieres of works by Peter Sculthorpe, Richard Meale, Ross Edwards, Graeme Koehne, Carl Vine, Elena Kats-Chernin, and Matthew Hindson.

Originally a violinist, Nicholas Milton was Concertmaster of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra from 1996-2002 and Violinist with Macquarie Trio Australia from 1998-2005. He studied at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Michigan State University, Boston University, the Mannes College of Music, and the Juilliard School, and holds Master's degrees in Violin, Conducting, Music Theory, and Philosophy, as well as a Doctoral degree in Music from the City University of New York. He won the 1999 Symphony Australia Young Conductor of the Year Competition and was a prizewinner in the 1999 Lovro von Matacic International Conductors' Competition. In 2003, Dr. Milton was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal, for Service to Australian Society and the Advancement of Music.