

# Kevin Purcell

conductor • musical director • composer • orchestrator



[www.kevinpurcell.com.au](http://www.kevinpurcell.com.au)

[www.australiandiscoveryorchestra.com](http://www.australiandiscoveryorchestra.com)

## **Management**

**(UK & Europe)**

Francine Fletcher  
Fletcher Associates  
Studio One, 25 Parkway  
London N20 0XN  
T: +44 208 361 8061  
E: [info@fletcherassociates.net](mailto:info@fletcherassociates.net)  
[www.fletcherassociates.net](http://www.fletcherassociates.net)

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Kevin is the Principal Conductor of the [Australian Discovery Orchestra](#) and Artistic Director of the biennial [Sir Arnold Bax Music Festival](#). The ADO comprises professional orchestral musicians from across Australia who perform repertoire embracing the extensive catalogue of orchestral music rarely heard live in-concert, occasional classic masterworks, and premiering new Australian music. The orchestra also maintains an active recording schedule.

Since being offered a scholarship to study instrumental conducting at the Moscow Conservatory of Music with Gennady Rozdhevstvensky and Leonid Nikolaev in 1991-2, immediately followed by receiving Opera Australia's **Willem van Otterloo Scholarship** to study Opera conducting with Glyndebourne Opera music director, Myer Fredman in 1993, Kevin has pursued a career that has taken him all around the world.

**"Kevin Purcell knows  
all about  
entertainment..."**

**Elizabeth Fortescue  
The Daily Telegraph Mirror**



Kevin first came to prominence in 1994 winning the **Sir Charles Mackerras Conductor's Prize** in London, going on to assist the late maestro at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Welsh National Opera, BBC Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment over several years.

In 1995, Kevin was further honored with The **Tait Memorial Trust Conductor Award** with funding for two-years of study at the *Janáčkova akademie múzických umění v Brně* (JAMU) in the Czech Republic to study conducting with the legendary Czech pedagogue, Otakar Trhlík. In this period, Kevin conducted a vast repertoire of treasured Czech music, including an invitation from San Diego Opera to assist on a production of *Rusalka* with Renée Fleming.



Other musical direction distinctions have included graduate conducting studies at Bard College (USA) and The Conductors Institute with the late Harold Farberman.

Kevin has conducted orchestras all over the world, including the *Ensemble Intercontemporain* in Paris, Bratislava Studio Symphony Orchestra, The Synchron Stage Orchestra (Wien), Wien Chamber

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Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra Hradec Králové, Beethoven Chamber Orchestra, Königsgrätz Philharmonic, West Bohemian Philharmony Mariánské Lázně, Georgian State Television and Radio Orchestra (in a live television broadcast), Dinu Lipatti Philharmonic and the Silesian State Opera being amongst the numerous orchestras he has led over the last thirty-five years.

As a musical director in theatre, Kevin has most recently worked in London conducting ***Wicked*** at the London Apollo Theatre and appointed musical director for the first UK/Eire National Tour (2013). He has had a long association with RUG and Cameron Mackintosh Ltd. having worked a number of musicals in London's West End, including two years as MD for ***CATS*** (1996-7) in the original New London Theatre production, and for the premiere production in South Korea (2003).

In March 2018, Kevin made a long-awaited recording debut with the release on [Divine Art Records](#) of previously un-recorded symphonic concert music of Grammy Award-winning and 7-times Emmy nominated American composer, [Nan Schwartz](#).



Kevin's forthcoming album, recorded with the Australian Discovery Orchestra, is of never before recorded Broadway songs by 16 of the most exciting new writers composing for the American Musical Theatre. The album, [16 STORIES](#), will be released in the first-half 2020 on the Broadway Records™ label with an accompanying 1-hour documentary of the making of the album.

With support from both the composers' estates and their respective music publishers, his current recording projects include premiere recordings of mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century British television operas commissioned by the BBC. The first disc will be *Mr. Cornelius* (C. Armstrong Gibbs) and *Parasol* (Sir Malcolm Arnold) followed by *Tobias and the Angel* by Sir Arthur Bliss.

Kevin also maintains an active career as a composer of Broadway musicals. His latest show, [Castle Gillian](#), written with long-time collaborator, Victor Kazan, will undergo a three-week development workshop in New York in October 2020 in tandem with a complete concept album recording.



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"The superb Bratislava Studio Symphony Orchestra, masterially conducted by Kevin Purcell, who also helms the Synchron Stage Orchestra of Vienna in the first four tracks of the CD, plays Broadstock's and Schwartz's eminently tonal, richly melodic music with the same care it would give a Beethoven symphony."

Rafael de Acha

[www.rafaelmusicnotes.com](http://www.rafaelmusicnotes.com)

"Conductor...Kevin Purcell...drew moving and amazingly cohesive results from his forces. Strings were sweet-sounding with clarity and excellent balance maintained in the orchestral texture."

Peter Donnelly, The Mercury, Federation Concert Hall, *Beethoven Symphony No. 9*, The Australian Red Cross Bushfire Appeal

**"Purcell conducts the 24-piece orchestra with crystalline clarity, lilting rhythm and passion."**

Michael Grossberg, Theatre Critic  
Columbus Dispatch, USA

**"Conductor Kevin Purcell has a fine ear for sonority, and...the recording is demonstration standard, with great perspective."**

Colin Clarke  
*Fanfare*

As composer:

"*The Stranger From Seville*...brings alive a place and its people as few musicals these days, particularly at NYMF, are able to manage. It's in many ways...dazzling."

Matthew Murray, [Talkinbroadway.com](http://Talkinbroadway.com)

"Kevin Purcell and Victor Kazan's *The Stranger From Seville* has a lot going for it: ...featuring a score of vibrant flamenco music...has the premise of a truly great romantic musical."

Zachary Stewart, [Theatermania.com](http://Theatermania.com)

"*The Stranger From Seville* is an exceptional musical with Book & Lyrics by Victor Kazan and Music by Kevin Purcell...The traditional, well-executed score features music that is contemporary and uplifting, with Flamenco and Mariachi influences."

Marcina Zaccaria, [TheaterPizzazz.com](http://TheaterPizzazz.com)

"The music...is glorious sung by voices that understand musicality. This dynamic score by Kevin Purcell is based on Gypsy Flamenco, Latino and regional Mexican infused styles."

T2online.com (Times Square Chronicles)



Press & Reviews