

Kevin Purcell

conductor • musical director • composer • orchestrator



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Kevin is the Principal Conductor of the Australian Discovery Orchestra (ADO) comprising 64 of the finest freelance orchestral musicians drawn from across Australia. The ADO presents annual seasons of outstanding, but under-represented, orchestral repertoire rarely seen on the concert stage anywhere in the world. The ADO also maintains an active recording schedule both for its own projects and as a per-service orchestra for commercial music recording projects.

As a musical director, Kevin 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 Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group as well as with Cameron Mackintosh Ltd. having worked a number of musicals in London's West End, including two

"Kevin Purcell knows
all about
entertainment..."

Elizabeth Fortescue
The Daily Telegraph



years as musical director for **CATS** (1996-7) in the original New London Theatre production as well as being asked to oversee the premiere production in and South Korea (2003).

Since 2014, Kevin has increasingly focused his passion for contemporary musical theatre, developing new approaches to engage the emerging generation of digital natives who perceive little, or no, difference between attending live theatre and the consumption of this and all types of media on digital devices. To that end Kevin's company in New York has developed a new production methodology for creating musicals entirely within virtual reality (VR). Quill & Quaver Associates LLC is now one of the world's most advanced exponents in producing new musicals in the digital space with patented, ground-breaking interactive, immersive options for audiences to participate in the musical's narrative through their own role-playing performance.



As a composer, Kevin currently has recently been commissioned to compose the score for the new musical **To Catch a Thief** with bookwriter/lyricist Peter Sham (*Lend Me a Tenor*) being produced for Broadway by Perry Street Theatricals (Dir. Martin Platt).

He has previously composed **Rebecca** (2004), **The Stranger from Seville** (2014); previously *The Mapmaker's Opera* (NYMF 2014 Grand Jury selection; 2nd Florida Festival of New Musicals (2018) and **Castle Gillian – An Irish Tale** (2023).

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Premiering at the 2023 Edinburgh Fringe, **Castle Gillian** is the world's first, full-length interactive VR musical, written with long-time collaborator, Victor Kazan (Book & Lyrics). Film awards to date. Include, the Cannes World Film Festival Best 360° film and Best Musical Film as well as being an official selection at the Festival of Virtual and Augmented Reality Stories (FIVARS). The show is being made available for non-profit, 501(c)(3) theatres across the USA as a completely self-contained buy-in digital production.

Kevin's most recent album, *16 STORIES*, released on Broadway Records™ (2022) recorded by the Australian Discovery Orchestra comprises never previously recorded Broadway songs by 16 of the most exciting new writers composing for the American Musical Theatre today. His previous 2018 release of the original orchestral music of Grammy Award-winning and seven-time Emmy nominated Hollywood composer and arranger, Nan Schwartz (Divine Art [DDA 25165](#)) is one of the most streamed orchestral albums on the major streaming



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 *Janáčková 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. His most recent international award was the prestigious Government of Ireland International Exchange Scholarship for advanced conducting studies in 2021.

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 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 amongst the numerous orchestras he has led over the last forty years.



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"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, The Australian Red Cross Bushfire Appeal, Beethoven Symphony No. 9, Federation Concert Hall.

"The whole concert had a wonderful energy about it, which came from Music Director Kevin Purcell's dynamic leadership, and his obvious rapport with the musicians."

Lyman Leathers, Gazette Music Critic, The Delaware Gazette

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

**Michael Grossberg, Theatre Critic
Columbus Dispatch, USA**

"The elegant and stylish conductor was Kevin Purcell. He got to the core of the music."

**Michael Dawney
Evening Echo
Bournemouth, UK**

As composer:

"*The Mapmaker's Opera*...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

"Kevin Purcell and Victor Kazan's *The Mapmaker's Opera* 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

"*The Mapmaker's Opera* 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

"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