

# Biografia

## Roberto Abbado

Conductor



Roberto Abbado, awarded the prestigious “Premio Abbiati” by the Italian Music Critics Association for his “accomplished interpretative maturity, the extent and the peculiarity of a repertoire where he has offered remarkable results through an intense season”, is Musical Director of Parma’s Festival Verdi. He studied orchestra conducting under Franco Ferrara at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice and at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, where he was invited – the only student in the history of the Academy – to lead the Orchestra di Santa Cecilia. He made his debut in the United States in 1991 in New York conducting the St. Luke’s Orchestra. Since then he has returned regularly to the US to lead the Symphonic Orchestras of the cities of Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco, as well as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra – of which he is one of the “Artistic Partners” –working with soloists like Yo-Yo Ma, Midori, Nigel Kennedy, Gil Shaham, Joshua Bell, Hilary Hahn, Vadim Repin, Sarah Chang, Yefim Bronfman, Mitsuko Uchida, Alfred Brendel, Radu Lupu, André Watts, Andras Schiff, Lang-Lang, and Katia and Marielle Labèque.

He was Musical Director of the Münchner Rundfunkorchester from 1991 to 1998, completing seven album recordings with the orchestra, and of the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia from 2015 to 2019. He has worked with many ensembles, including Amsterdam’s Concertgebouworkest, the Wiener Symphoniker, the Orchestre national de France, the Orchestre de Paris, the Staatskapelle Dresden, the Gewandhausorchester (Leipzig), the NDR Sinfonieorchester (Hamburg), the Sveriges Radios Symfoniorkester (Stockholm), the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra di Santa Cecilia, the Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della Rai, the Filarmonica della Scala, the Orchestra of Teatro Comunale di Bologna, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the New World Symphony Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and the Taipei Symphony Orchestra.

Roberto Abbado has conducted numerous world premieres and new opera productions, including *Fedora and Ernani* at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York; *I vespri siciliani* at the Wiener Staatsoper; *La Gioconda*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La donna del lago*, and the world premiere of Fabio Vacchi’s *Teneke* at La Scala; *L’amour des trois oranges*, *Aida*, and *La traviata* at the Bayerische Staatsoper; *Le Comte Ory*, *Attila*, *I Lombardi alla prima crociata*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Henze’s *Phaedra* – at its Italian premiere – and *Anna Bolena* at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino; *Don Giovanni* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin; *Simon Boccanegra*, and *La clemenza di Tito* at the Teatro Regio of Turin; *La donna del lago* at the Opéra Garnier in Paris; *Ermione*, *Zelmira*, and *Mosè in Egitto* at the Rossini Opera Festival; the Italian premiere of Marschner’s *Der Vampyr* at the Teatro Comunale in Bologna.

A passionate interpreter of contemporary music, Abbado’s repertoire includes composers like Luciano Berio, Bruno Maderna, Goffredo Petrassi, Sylvano Bussotti, Niccolò Castiglioni, Azio Corghi, Ivan Fedele, Luca Francesconi, Giorgio Battistelli, Michele dall’Ongaro, Giacomo Manzoni, Salvatore Sciarrino, Fabio Vacchi, Pascal Dusapin, Henri Dutilleul, Olivier Messiaen, Alfred Schnittke, Hans Werner Henze, Helmut Lachenmann, John Adams, Ned Rorem, Christopher Rouse, Steven

Stucky, and Charles Wuorinen.

His recordings include Bellini’s *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (nominated “Best Recording of the Year” by the BBC Magazine in 1999), Rossini’s *Tancredi* (winner of the “Echo Klassik Deutsche Schallplattenpreis” in 1997), *Don Pasquale* with Eva Mei and Renato Bruson, *Turandot* with Eva Marton, Ben Heppner, and Margaret Price. Under Decca he has recorded *Verismo Arias* with Mirella Freni, *L’amour* and *Arias* for Rubini with Juan Diego Flórez. With Deutsche Grammophon he has issued *Bel Canto* (“Echo Klassik Deutscher Schallplattenpreis” 2009), *Revive* – both with Elina Garanča – and a DVD of *Fedora* with Mirella Freni and Plácido Domingo from New York’s Met. Roberto Abbado was the first Italian conductor to lead the traditional New Year’s Concert at La Fenice in Venice on 1 January 2008 (Hardy Classic Video DVD). Three DVDs from the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro have also been issued: *Ermione*, under the label Dynamic; *Zelmira* with Juan Diego Flórez, Kate Aldrich and Gregory Kunde under Decca; *Mosè in Egitto* with Sonia Ganassi, Dmitry Korchak, Riccardo Zanellato and Alex Esposito under Opus Arte.

Particularly significant are his symphonic tours with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (Spain 2005), the Chamber Orchestra of Europe (Europe 2006), the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (Europe 2007), the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (Bucarest Enescu Festival 2009), the Orchestra Verdi di Milano (Switzerland 2009), the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo (Russia 2011), and the Boston Symphony Orchestra (USA, East Coast 2011).

During recent seasons he has conducted *La Favorite* at the Salzburg Festival (starring Juan Diego Flórez and Elina Garanča), *La Gioconda*, *Maometto II* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Teatro dell’Opera di Roma; he has opened two seasons of the Teatro Comunale di Bologna conducting *Macbeth* (staged by Bob Wilson) and *Parsifal* (staged by Romeo Castellucci); *Così fan tutte* at the Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari, *La traviata* (staged by Ferzan Özpetek) on a tour to Hong Kong with the Teatro di San Carlo of Naples, *Don Pasquale* and *Samson et Dalila* at the Palau de les Arts in Valencia, *Norma* at the Teatro Regio in Turin, *Rigoletto* at New York’s Metropolitan and *Simon Boccanegra* on a tour to Hong Kong with Turin’s Teatro Regio.

More recently he was on the podium of the Opera di Roma with *Benvenuto Cellini*, *Andrea Chénier*, *I masnadieri* and *La damnation de Faust* of the Palau de les Arts in Valencia with *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *I vespri siciliani*, *Tancredi*, *La damnation de Faust*, *I masnadieri*, *Rigoletto* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*, of the Teatro Real in Madrid with *Norma*, of the Shanghai Opera House with *La Traviata*, of the Rossini Opera Festival with *Le siège de Corinthe*, of the Festival Verdi in Parma with *Le Trouvère*, of the Théâtre des Champs Élysées in Paris and the Met in New York with *Lucia di Lammermoor*. In November 2017 he has made his debut at Ópera de Bilbao conducting Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale*.

From 2015 Abbado has led the orchestras of San Francisco, Dallas, Atlanta and Minnesota, the New World Symphony, the MDR-Sinfonieorchester of Leipzig, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Malaysian Philharmonic and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Madrid.