



Jesse Wong Kapellmeister and Studienleiter, Luzerner Theater

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Conducting Engagement

Die Fledermaus, Johann Strauss II	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Winter 2025
Idomeneo, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Fall 2024
La Boheme, Giacomo Puccini	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Spring 2024
I Capuleti e i Montecchi, Vincenzo Bellini	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Winter 2024
Hänsel und Gretel, Engelbert Humperdinck	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Fall 2023, Düsseldorf Symphoniker, Winter 2018
Schwanensee, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Spring 2023
Alcina, Georg Frederic Handel	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Spring 2023
Der Rosenkavalier, Richard Strauss	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Winter 2022
Eugene Onegin, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Fall 2022
Blaubarts Berg, Bela Bartok	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Fall 2022
Perelá, Pascal Dusapin	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Spring 2022
The Rape of Lucretia, Benjamin Britten	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Spring 2022
Macbeth, Giuseppe Verdi	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Winter 2021
Le Nozze di Figaro, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Fall 2021
Das schlaue Fuchslein, Leos Janacek	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Summer 2021
Così fan tutte, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Spring 2021
Il barbiere di Siviglia, Giacchino Rossini	Luzern Symphony Orchestra, Fall 2020
Die Zauberflöte, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Düsseldorf Symphoniker, Spring 2019
Don Pasquale, Gaetano Donizetti	Düsseldorf Symphoniker, Duisburg Philharmoniker, Spring 2018
Ariane, Bohuslav Martinu	Duisburg Philharmoniker, Spring 2018
Where the Wild Things Are, Oliver Knussen	Duisburg Philharmoniker, Düsseldorf Festival Orchestra, 2017-19
What Next?, Elliott Carter	Duisburg Philharmoniker, Spring 2016

Further Repertoire

Alban Berg Wozzeck, Lulu **Igor Stravinsky** The Rake's Progress **Sergei Prokofiev** The Fiery Angel **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** The Queen of Spades **Paul Hindemith** Cardillac **Richard Wagner** Der Fliegende Hollander, Lohengrin, Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried, Götterdämmerung, Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Tristan und Isolde, Parsifal **Richard Strauss** Ariadne auf Naxos, Arabella, Salome **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Don Giovanni **Giuseppe Verdi** Stiffelio, Il Trovatore, La Traviata, Rigoletto, Un Ballo in Maschera, Don Carlo, Aida, Otello, Falstaff **Giacomo Puccini** La Boheme, Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Turandot **Jules Massenet** Manon, Werther, Cendrillon **Georges Bizet** Carmen **and additional acts and scenes.**

Employment and Education

Luzerner Theater, Kapellmeister and Studienleiter (House Conductor and Head of Studies)	August 2020 – present
Deutsche Oper am Rhein (Düsseldorf-Duisburg), Conductor and Korrepetitor	May 2014 – July 2020
Theater Krefeld-Mönchengladbach, Korrepetitor	September 2013 – July 2014
National Opera Studio, Conductor/Repetiteur Course, London, UK	September 2012 – June 2013
Harvard University, Bachelor of Arts in Music (Conducting, Piano), Cambridge, MA, USA	September 2008 – June 2012

References

Jonathan Bloxham, Music Director, Luzerner Theater (2023-present)	Jonathan.Bloxham@luzernertheater.ch
Ursula Benzing, Opera Director, Luzerner Theater (2023-present)	Ursula.Benzing@luzernertheater.ch
Lydia Steier, Opera Director, Luzerner Theater (2021-present)	Lydia.Steier@luzernertheater.ch
Ina Karr, General Intendant, Luzerner Theater (2021-present)	Ina.Karr@luzernertheater.ch
Clemens Heil, Former Chief Conductor, Luzerner Theater (2020-21)	0041 76 284 33 28
Stefan Vogel, Former Opera Director, Staatstheater Mainz	Stefan.Vogel@luzernertheater.ch
Wolfgang Wiechert, Head of Studies, Deutsche Oper am Rhein/Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe	W.Wiechert@operamrhein.de

DETAILED EXPERIENCE

Luzerner Theater

August 2020 – present

Studienleiter (Head of Studies) und Kapellmeister

- Conductor for rehearsals and performances of “Das schlaue Fuchslein,” “Il Barbiere di Siviglia,” and “Cosi fan tutte” for the 2020-2021 season, “Le Nozze di Figaro,” “Macbeth,” and “The Rape of Lucretia” for the 2021-2022 season, “Bluebeard's Castle,” “Der Rosenkavalier,” “Alcina,” “Eugene Onegin,” and “Swan Lake” for the 2022-2023 season, “Hänsel und Gretel,” “I Capuleti e I Montecchi,” and La Boheme for the 2023-2024 season.
- Direct and schedule the complete singing ensemble and musical staff for all musical events, performances, rehearsals and coachings. Collaborate with the front office and leadership for planning during the season. Coach singers for performances and recitals on the complete operatic repertoire.

Deutsche Oper Am Rhein (Düsseldorf-Duisburg)

May 2014 – July 2020

Dirigent und Korrepetitor

- Engaged as Kapellmeister for performances over the 2017 – 2020 seasons with the Duisburg Philharmonic, Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra, and the AltstadtHerbst Orchestra.
- Conductor of the following premieres and reprisals: “Die Zauberflöte,” “Hänsel and Gretel,” “Don Pasquale,” Elliott Carter's “What Next?” (2016-17), Oliver Knussen's “Where the Wild Things Are,” (2017-19), Bohuslav Martinu's “Ariane” (2018), Viktor Ullmann's “Der Kaiser von Atlantis” (2020)
- Coached singers for performances and recitals on the complete operatic repertoire. Play for musical and staging rehearsals on- and off-stage. Highlights include the Wagner's complete Ring Cycle and Berg's “Wozzeck” and “Lulu.”

Bach Society Orchestra (Harvard University)

September 2011 – June 2012

Music Director and Conductor

- Selected to lead the premiere chamber orchestra at Harvard University; former conductors include conductors Hugh Wolff, Alan Gilbert, and composers John Harbison and John Adams.
- Led 40-person orchestra in rehearsals twice a week for four concerts throughout the year.
- Chose repertoire from a variety of composers (incl. Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms, Debussy, Hindemith, Shostakovich, Copland and Rautavaara) and made artistic and creative decisions for musical interpretation.

Theater Krefeld-Mönchengladbach (Deutschland)

September 2013 – July 2014

- Recipient of an artist scholarship from the Nachlass Friedelind Wagner (reference: Neill Thornborrow, thornborrow.agent@t-online.de)
- Work with the 2013/2014 operatic season as assistant conductor, ballet pianist, and vocal coach. Repetitor for on-stage and off-stage rehearsals and backstage duties with the choir.
- Performances with the Niederrheinisch Symphoniker and the Opernstudio Niederrhein.

Lowell and Dunster House Opera (Harvard University)

January 2009 – June 2010

Music Director and Staff

- Directed opera scenes for three semesters as part of the Lowell House Opera Scenes Program.
- Chose a variety of scenes spanning over three centuries, including scenes by Gluck, Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, Bellini, Adamo, and Corigliani (*Orfeo ed Eurydice*, *Idomeneo*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *La Traviata*, *Norma*, *Little Women*, and *The Ghosts of Versailles*).
- Assisted full operatic productions including Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* and Bernstein's *Candide*.

AWARDS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Selected to participate in vocal masterclasses with opera singers Renee Fleming (2010), Joyce DiDonato (2013), and Helen Donath (2014).

Solo engagements with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. (Chopin's 1st Piano Concerto, mvt. 1, 2006), the Capital Symphony Orchestra (Liszt's 1st Piano Concerto, 2008), and the Little River Symphony Orchestra (Bartok's 3rd Piano Concerto, 2007).

Biography

Born in Fairfax, Virginia, Jesse Wong has made a name for himself as an inspirational conductor and pianist, working with top singers, musicians and opera houses across Europe and around the world.

As the current Studienleiter and Kapellmeister of the Luzerner Theater in Switzerland, he has passionately developed the ensemble into a celebrated musical force: "Everyone sings their roles in such an impressive manner, with an arc of excitement over the entire evening, never boring or indifferent. To hear the singers of the Luzerner Ensemble, it is a true joy." - SRF Regionaljournal Zentralschweiz

Through his engagement with the leadership of prominent directors such as Benedikt von Peter and Lydia Steier, and the management of Ina Karr, Lars Gebhardt and Johanna Wall, Jesse has conducted a prolific amount of operatic repertoire with the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, including "Il Barbiere di Siviglia" (Rossini), "Cosi fan tutte" (Mozart), "Le Nozze di Figaro" (Mozart), "The Cunning Little Vixen" (Janacek), "Macbeth" (Verdi), and "The Rape of Lucretia" (Britten), for which he also served as the head conductor. He also steps in to conduct three performances of Pascal Dusapin's lauded modern opera "Perela," for which he led rehearsals in collaboration with the chief conductor of the Staatstheater Mainz Hermann Bäumer. Next season he will be the principal conductor for productions of the opera Eugene Onegin (Tchaikovsky) and the ballet Swan Lake, as well as conducting performances of "Bluebeard's Castle" (Bartok) and "Der Rosenkavalier" (Richard Strauss) in a new production from Lydia Steier.

Over six seasons as repetiteur and conductor at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf/Duisburg under the direction of Axel Kober, Jesse worked with the plus 50-member singing ensemble and three associated orchestras to stage over 200 performances each year. As well as conducting the standard operatic repertoire such as "Hänsel and Gretel" (Humperdinck), "Don Pasquale" (Donizetti), and "Die Zauberflöte" (Mozart), he was a go-to figure for training and interpreting complex contemporary opera, making his house debut conducting the one-act opera "What Next?" by the late composer Elliott Carter (original premiere at Staatsoper Unter den Linden with Daniel Barenboim) and multiple-season performances of the fantasy opera "Where the Wild Things Are" by the late composer Oliver Knussen. Other highlights included conducting a full production of the one-act opera "Ariane" by Bohuslav Martinu, serving as the primary repetiteur in Stefan Herheim's staging of "Wozzeck" by Alban Berg, and playing full rehearsals of Dietrich Hilsdorf's and Axel Kober's new production of the complete "Der Ring des Nibelungen" (Wagner).

Under the tutelage of the pianist Nancy O'Neill Breth, he performed as a soloist with many orchestras, including the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C. Receiving his music degree from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he also conducted and led the premier student orchestra, he was later accepted into intensive apprentice programs at the National Opera Studio in London and the Opera Studio at the Theater Krefeld-Mönchengladbach, Germany. He can be contacted for opera coachings in German, Italian, French and Russian, as well as for performances, arrangements and jazz improvisation.