

Howard Arman
Artistic Director of the
Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks



Versatility is one of the principal artistic concerns of London-born conductor, chorus master and composer Howard Arman, who since the autumn of 2016 has been the artistic director of the Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks. As a result he has made a name for himself in every area of classical music, no matter what the period, genre or form, from Baroque concertos performed according to the tenets of historically informed performance practice to choral symphonies, operas, jazz programmes and singalong concerts that he himself presents and that are designed to appeal to the widest possible audiences.

Howard Arman studied at Trinity College of Music in London before working with a number of leading English ensembles and quickly extending his field of activity to mainland Europe. In Germany he has worked with the choirs of NDR, SWR and RIAS Berlin.

From 1983 to 2000 he conducted the Salzburg Bach Choir and from 1998 to 2013 was artistic director of the MDR Choir in Leipzig. He first appeared at the Salzburg Festival in 1995. In addition to his international commitments as a choral and orchestral conductor he has also conducted acclaimed productions at opera houses in Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland. He received the Handel Music Prize for reshaping the Handel Festival Orchestra on the occasion of its production of *Orlando* in 1996. From 2011 to July 2016 he was music director of the Lucerne Theatre. Among the opera productions that he conducted during that time were Handel's *Hercules*, Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, Bizet's *Carmen* and Richard Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. In addition he conducted *Metamorphosen*, a work of dance theatre featuring his own compositions, and the world premiere of Johannes Maria Staud's *Die Antilope*.

Howard Arman's substantial discography includes Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* op. 37, which won an ECHO Klassik Award, and Carl Heinrich Graun's oratorio *Der Tod Jesu*. He has appeared frequently with the Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks since 2002, conducting, among other works, Handel's *Funeral Anthem for Queen Caroline*, Purcell's *Ode on St Cecilia's Day* of 1692, Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle* at the Lucerne Festival and the singalong concert *cOHRwürmer*. Since taking up his new appointment with the choir in 2016 he has conducted a whole series of programmes, including *War and Peace*, *Inspiring Mendelssohn*, *Christmas Classics* (available on CD) and a much-acclaimed performance of Handel's rarely heard *Occasional Oratorio*.

January 2018 / 2500 characters