



## Simon Williams

**Simon Williams** has directed several operas at UCSB, including *The Turn of the Screw*, *La finta giardiniera*, *Werther*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Gondoliers* and *Così fan tutte*. His productions of J.B. Priestley's *Time and the Conways* and Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer* won Santa Barbara *Independent* awards for directing in 2009 and 2011. He is widely recognized as an authority on the history of acting and Shakespearean performance, as well as on opera as drama and on the history of operatic staging.

He has lectured worldwide on Wagner, having served as English-language audience lecturer at the Bayreuth Festival, and he has spoken on operas by Bartok, Berlioz, Bizet, Britten, Janacek, Mozart, Puccini, Richard Strauss, and Verdi at opera houses and opera guilds throughout the world. He has served for several years as the *Opera News* critic for Los Angeles and Santa Fe. He is the author of four books on German theatre, the co-editor of the first *History of German Theatre* in English (Cambridge 2008), and is currently chief editor of the forthcoming *Cambridge World Encyclopedia of Stage Actors and Acting*. He is a professor and chair of the Department of Theater and Dance.