

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Maestro Biography: Patrick Summers



Patrick Summers has led a vast repertory for the Company, including *Ariodante*, *Samson et Dalila*, *Iphigénie en Tauride*, *Il Trittico*, *Xerxes*, and *Der Fliegende Holländer*; the world premieres of André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1998), Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* (2000), and Christopher Theofanidis and Donna Di Novelli's *Heart of a Soldier* (2011); the West Coast premiere of Heggie's *Three Decembers* (2008); Heggie's *Moby-Dick* (2012); *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Sweeney Todd* (2015). A 2015 recipient of the San Francisco Opera Medal, Summers has twice received Merola Opera Program's Otto Guth Award and was named its "Distinguished Alumnus" in 2001. Summers has conducted at the world's preeminent opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu, Lisbon Opera, Bordeaux Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Bregenz Festival, Welsh National Opera, Opera Australia, Seattle Opera, Los Angeles Opera, and the Dallas Opera. Other world premieres include Previn's *Brief Encounter* at Houston Grand Opera, *It's a Wonderful Life* at Houston Grand Opera, and Paul Moravec's *The Letter* at the Santa Fe Opera.

As Houston Grand Opera's artistic and music director, Summers has overseen many of that company's important artistic advances, including the formation of the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra. During his tenure, he has supervised and conducted several world premieres as well as many seminal opera works not previously mounted by the company.