

GREGORY BUCHALTER Conductor



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- **The Value I Bring:** Many years of experience working with some of the greatest artists and institutions, yet I value the individual's specific needs. Through patience and understanding I dedicate myself entirely to helping others feel comfortable and appreciated.
- **Background Summary:** Conducted acclaimed singers and instrumentalists and worked with the world's greatest conductors for over 20 years at Metropolitan Opera as cover conductor, coach, and "Maestro di Banda," a position that was created for me for my ability to work with and conduct backstage orchestra members during performance.

Have been Artistic and Music Director at several opera companies so I bring experience with opera companies of various budget sizes with artistic planning and the hiring of a diversified array of artists. Have spent much time working in education and training today's youth. I am driven and fully committed to what I do and have a huge knowledge of the operatic and symphonic repertoire. I regularly give Master Classes for singers and instrumentalists and have a private coaching studio.

AREAS OF STRENGTH

Patience and understanding of others • Recognizing optimal talent and prioritizing diversity in artists • Public Speaking • Written and Strong Verbal Communication Skills • People Skills

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CURRENT POSITIONS

- Music Director, Varna International Festival (2022-present)
- Music Director, Vero Beach Opera (2023-present)

- Guest Conductor, South Florida Symphony Orchestra (2021-present)
- Conductor, Florida Grand Opera (2020-present)
- Conductor, Cyprus Symphony Orchestra (2024)
- Conductor, Mobile Opera (2024)

PAST POSITIONS

- Cover Conductor/Maestro di Banda, Metropolitan Opera (1994-2020)
- Artistic Director/Conductor, Opera Fairbanks (2007-2020)
- Music Director/Conductor, Opera Las Vegas (2010-2017)
- Conductor, New England Conservatory, Boston (2020)
- Conductor, Orlando Opera (2022)
- Conductor, Teatro Lirico D'europa (2021-present)
- Conductor, Latvian Symphony Orchestra
- Conductor, Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music Orchestra (2023)
- Conductor, Pacific Northwest Opera (2022)
- Principal Conductor, Varna International Festival (2018 to 2020)
- Guest conductor, North Czech Philharmonic, Smetana Hall, Prague (2020)
- Chorus Master/Cover Conductor, Santa Fe Opera (2005-2007)
- Artistic Director/Conductor, Opera Camerata of Washington D.C. (2001-2022)
- Conductor, Savonlinna Festival, Finland (2001)
- Conductor, Spoleto Festival (2009)
- Guest Conductor, Mediterranean Opera Festival (2017)
- Conductor, Amore Opera, New York City (2009-2015)
- Guest Conductor, New Opera World Festival, Moscow (2016)
- Guest Conductor, Kazakhstan Symphony Orchestra (1996)
- Guest Conductor, Cairo Symphony (1996)
- Conductor/Chorus Master, Theater des Westens, Berlin (1993-1994)
- Chorus Master, Bregenz Festival, Austria (1994-1995)
- Guest Chorus Master, Chautauqua Symphony (1992)
- Conductor, Israel Vocal Arts Institute (1988, 1997)
- Conductor, New York Symphonic Arts Ensemble (1988-1995)
- Music Director/Conductor, New Rochelle Opera (1987-1994)
- Music Director/Conductor, Manhattan Opera Association (1988-994)
- Music Director/Conductor, Choros Aristos (1992-1995)
- Assistant Conductor, Des Moines Metro Opera (1985)
- Chorus Master, Bel Canto Opera, New York City (1987-1988)
- Assistant Conductor, Opera Music Theater of New Jersey (OMTI) (1988-1990)
- Assistant Conductor, Montclair State University Opera Department (1989-1990)
- Assistant Conductor, SUNY Purchase, Opera Department (1983-1985)
- Assistant Chorus Master, Metropolitan Opera (1989-1994)

RECENT REVIEWS

PAGLIACCI (Florida Grand Opera, January 2024) "Conductor Gregory Buchalter drew playing of exceptional brilliance and subtlety from the orchestra. He brought a light, deft touch to the commedia music and drew clarity and coordination from the chorus... in the crowd scenes". <https://southfloridaclassicalreview.com/2024/01/fgos-expanded-pagliacci-serves-up-fiery-verismo-vocalism/>

TOSCA (Florida Grand Opera, March 2023) "Conductor Gregory Buchalter's interpretation of Puccini's score was masterful, balancing the dramatic intensity of the story with the musical beauty of the score. The orchestra's playing was impeccable, providing a lush and emotive backdrop for the singers."

<https://www.schmopera.com/a-triumph-for-tosca-at-the-adrienne-arsht-center/>

"Gregory Buchalter led a taut performance that fully conveyed the tense drama and lyricism of Puccini's music. The orchestra played with strength, luster and seamless flow throughout the opera's three acts".

<https://southfloridaclassicalreview.com/2023/03/fgo-serves-up-a-riveting-and-combustible-tosca/>

RIGOLETTO (Opera Orlando, April 2022) "Buchalter's presence in the pit was perhaps the biggest advantage this performance had. Here was an opera specialist in control of the music. Orchestra, chorus and principals were supported and inspired. Her defining aria – "Caro nome che il mio cor" in sympathy with Buchalter's conducting- stopped the worries of the world for a brief moment. The Act III quartet- there was magic in the air. It is my choice to give the majority of the credit for this to Buchalter who artfully balanced orchestra and soloists so that all four voices could be perceived simultaneously." <http://alc-pro.com/reviews/f/saturday-april-232022>

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (Florida Grand Opera, January 2022) "Previn's busy orchestral writing is complex and unrelenting. Indeed some of the work's most imaginative moments come in the instrumental interludes between scenes. Gregory Buchalter masterfully coordinated the score's shifting meters and textures. His expert pacing and total command drew outstanding playing from the ensemble while never overwhelming the singers."

<https://southfloridaclassicalreview.com/2022/01/fgo-returns-as-strong-cast-makes-a-worthy-case-for-previns-streetcar/>

"One of the reasons to savor this production is conductor Gregory Buchalter and the orchestra's mastery of Previn's difficult expressive score with so many styles from dissonant jazz to lyrical Puccini woven together and sometimes intentionally interrupting each other."

<https://www.floridatheateronstage.com/reviews/fgo-streetcars-glorious-score-superb-voices-not-quite-a-meld-with-tennessee-williams/>

BIOGRAPHY Gregory Buchalter currently holds the title of Music Director and conductor of both Varna International and Vero Beach Opera and is in high demand as a guest conductor throughout the world. He has received rave reviews for his frequent appearances conducting at the Florida Grand Opera. He regularly conducts the South Florida Symphony and has made recent appearances with Teatro Lirica D'europa, the Vienna Summer Music Festival, Opera Orlando, Mobile Opera and the New England Conservatory of Music. Internationally, Maestro Buchalter made his debut with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra earlier this year and has conducted Salome at the Savonlinna Opera Festival, Die Fledermaus at the Vienna Volksoper, Mozart's Entführung aus dem Serail at the Spoleto Festival, Così fan Tutte with the Mediterranean Opera Festival in Italy and Eugene Onegin with the New Opera World Festival in Moscow and many operas at Varna International including the Bulgarian premieres of Candide and Kurt Weil's Street Scene. He just completed a very successful run of Verdi's Requiem throughout Italy with Varna International. Upcoming with the company will be performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, an all Brahms Concert featuring the first Symphony and the Violin Concerto with the renowned violinist Ilya Kaler, as well as four operas. This past year he made his debut in Latvia conducting concerts at the Latvia Academy of Music. He was Music Director of Opera Las Vegas for five years and conducted the American Premieres of Mercadante's I due Figaro, Von Winter's Das Labyrinth and Donizetti's Olivo e Pasquale in New York City. At Opera Fairbanks he was Artistic Director for 10 years and conducted La Boheme, Carmen, L'elisir d'amore, Don Giovanni, Tosca, La Cenerentola, L'italiana in Algeri, Hansel and Gretel, Magic Flute, Pagliacci and concerts featuring Vivica Genaux. During his leadership in Fairbanks, he has brought many internationally renowned singers including Paul Plishka, Sondra Radvanovsky, Francisco Casanova, and Alessandra Marc. Maestro Buchalter had great successes in Fairbanks conducting Mahler's Fourth Symphony and Bernstein's West Side Story Symphonic Dances as well as a recent concert in Belgrade featuring the Sibelius Violin Concerto. He was the first American to conduct with the Kazakhstan State Opera; the performances there included a televised Gala concert for the President of Kazakhstan. Mr. Buchalter has been Chorus Master of Santa Fe Opera, where he received great acclaim for his choral preparation for Peter Grimes, Turandot, and many other operas. In addition he was Chorus Master at the Bregenz Festival in Austria, Theater des Westens in Berlin, and the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra. Maestro Buchalter has been a cover conductor at the Metropolitan Opera many years where the position of "Maestro di Banda" was created for him. He has worked extensively with the Metropolitan Opera Chorus and has been Chorus Master at the Met for several productions including the telecast of Franco Zeffirelli's production of Don Giovanni and Gershwin's Porgy and Bess. He has also prepared several world premieres at the Met: John Corigliano's The Ghosts of Versailles, Philip Glass' The Voyage, and John Harbison's The Great Gatsby. In the later, Mr. Buchalter created the on-stage part of the jazz band conductor.

EDUCATION

- BFA in Music, SUNY Purchase
- Manhattan School of Music (College)
- Mannes School of Music (Pre-College)
- American Institute of Musical Studies, Graz, Austria (AIMS)

CONDUCTING TEACHERS

- Gustav Meier, Seiji Ozawa; have worked extensively with James Levine at the MET and Alan Gilbert at Santa Fe

SKILLS

- Accomplished pianist and accompanist and excellent sight-reader
- Near fluent in German and Italian; basic French