

Biography of a Composer

Nicholas Isherwood's music has been influenced by the great composers he has had the privilege to work with as a singer. His music has been performed at venues such as the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, the Goethe Institut in Paris, the CNRS, Yehudi Menuhin's Flâneries Musicales in Reims, the Perpignan Festival, the SMIO in Orléans, the Théâtre Dunois, Dôme IMAX and Bibliothèque Historique in Paris, Freiburg, the MDR in Halle, the SWR, Vanderbilt University, the University of Oregon, Kaoshung, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Togamura, Japan. He has received commissions from the DRAC du centre, Art Zoyd and the CNAT in Reims. Isherwood's music has been performed by VOXNOVA, Stefano Cardi, Michel Amoric, Magnus Andersson, Isabel Soccoja, Christophe De Villeneuve and the soloists of the MDR children's choir. His music has been broadcast by France Musique, the MDR and the SWR. He is a member of the SACD.

Biography of a Director

Nicholas Isherwood's first experience as a stage director was Bruno Maderna's opera *Satyricon* at the Carré St. Vincent in Orléans, France in 1990. He supervised the lighting, staging, costumes and programming of his sextet, VOXNOVA, from 1992-2008, notably directing Luciano Berio's *A-ronne* in Alicante, Reims, Paris, Royaumont, Perpignan and Togamura, Japan.

Isherwood has directed student productions of Adriano Banchieri's *La Pazzia Senile*, John Cage's *Song Books*, Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Am Himmel Wandre ich...*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* at SUNY at Buffalo, Calarts and the University of Oregon.

Professional productions include Hans Werner Henze's *El Cimarrón* in Fontenay, Karlheinz Stockhausen's *Am Himmel Wandre ich...* in Paris, Bari (Teatro Petruzzelli), Utrecht, Amsterdam, Torino, Steier (Steierischer Herbst), Berlin (Deutsche Oper), Macerata, Mexico City (Musica y Escena), Guanajuato (the Festival Cervantino) and Reims (the CNAT), John Cage's *Song Books* at the Théâtre de Bourgogne in Dijon and the Théâtre Sylvia Monfort in Paris and Mauricio Kagel's *Phonophonie* in Paris (Salle Olivier Messiaen), Venice (Teatro Fondamenta Nuova), Torino (Teatro Regio), June in Buffalo, Mexico City (Musica y Escena), Paris (the Salle Olivier Messiaen) and at the Stuttgart Opera.

After taking a summer course on the "commedia dell'arte" with Antonio Fava in Regio Emilia, Isherwood has become increasingly interested in this art form. He has acquired a collection of masks and directed student productions of Adriano Banchieri's *La Pazzia Senile* and Luciano Berio's *A-Ronne* in traditional "commedia" style.

Biography of a Singer

Nicholas Isherwood is one of the leading singers of early music and contemporary music in the world today. He has worked with Joel Cohen, William Christie, Peter Eötvös, Paul McCreesh, Nicholas McGegan, Kent Nagano, Zubin Mehta and Gennadi Rozhdestvensky as well as composers Sylvano Bussotti, Elliott Carter, George Crumb, Hans Werner Henze, Mauricio Kagel, György Kurtág, Olivier Messiaen, Giacinto Scelsi, Karlheinz Stockhausen and Iannis Xenakis in prestigious venues around the world (La Scala, Covent Garden, the Théâtre des Champs Elysées, Salzburg Festival, Concertgebouw, Berlin Staatsoper, Vienna Konzerthaus, Tanglewood). Directors he has worked with include Yuri Lyubimov, Tadashi Suzuki, Pier Luigi Pizzi, Sylvano Bussotti, Dmitri Bertmann, Michael Hampe, Pierre Audi and La Fura dels Baus. Operatic roles include "Antinoo" in Monteverdi's *Il Ritorno di Ulisse in Patria* with Boston Baroque, "Plutone" in Monteverdi's *Il Ballo delle Ingrate* at the Angers Opera, "Claudio" in Händel's *Agrippina* with Nicholas McGegan, "Satiro" in Rossi's *Orfeo* and "Pan" in Marais' *Alcione* with Les Arts Florissants, "Joas" in Porpora's *Il Gedeone* with Martin Haselböck, "Frère Léon" in Saint François d'Assise in the last composer supervised production, "Der Tod" in productions of Ullmann's *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* with the Bach Akademie in Stuttgart, the Konzerthaus in Berlin and Ze2m, "Roméo" in Dusapin's *Roméo et Juliette* at the Avignon Festival, Montpellier Opera and on tour, "Lear" in Hosokawa's *Vision of Lear* for the Munich Biennale, the title role in Mefano's *Micromégas*, "Bartolo" in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and the title role in *The Mikado* at the Eugene Opera, "Truffaldino" in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Long Beach Opera, "Giovanni Falcone" in Nicola Sani's *Il Tempo Sospeso di Volo* at the Teatro Cavallerizza in Regio Emilia, the "Hotel Manager" in Adès *Powder her Face* in Lugo and at the Teatro Comunale in Bologna, "Astrodamors" in Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* with Zoltan Pesko and La Fura dels Baus and "Il Testimone" in Bussotti's *Tieste*, the title role in Luca Lombardi's *Il Re Nudo*, all at the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome, "General Howard" in Zender's *Chief Joseph, the 7 Attempted Escapes from Silence* and Kagel's *Der Tribun*, all at the Staatsoper in Berlin, several roles in Zender's *Don Quixote* at the Komische Oper Berlin and "Lucifer" in the world premieres of Stockhausen's *Montag, Dienstag, and Freitag aus Licht* at La Scala and the Leipzig Opera and in *Donnerstag aus Licht* at Covent Garden. He has improvised with Steve Lacy, Joëlle Léandre, Sainkho Namtchilak and David Moss, recorded over 50 cd's and appeared in three films.

Biography of a Teacher

Nicholas Isherwood studied with Richard Miller at the Oberlin Conservatory and College (B.M., B.A.) and privately in Italy (with Sara Sforini Corti and Roberto Benaglio). He completed a DEA in musicology with a thesis on the vocal vibrato at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes, together with the Ecole Normale Supérieure and IRCAM under the direction of Hugues Dufourt and Doctor Marc Yana.

Isherwood has taught master classes for over twenty years. This has brought him to the Salzburg Mozarteum, the Xenakis summer courses in Paris, the Abbaye de Royaumont, Ars Musica in Brussels, the Darmstadt Ferienkurse, the Reims Conservatory, IRCAM, the CCMIX, the Paris Conservatoire, Cal State L.A., the ARIAM Ile de France (two courses), the University of Washington, Cal State San Francisco, the Cologne Conservatory (summer program in Montepulciano), Calarts, the ARIAM Ile de France, Pont Levoy, the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi in Milano, the Institute for the Living Voice (Berlin), the Troyes Conservatory, UNAM and CENART in Mexico City, the Gallarate Conservatory, the Normal University in Taiwan, the conservatory of Morelia (Mexico), the Wellington University (New Zealand), the summer academy in Cortanze, Italy (with Mirella Freni), and numerous appearances at the Stockhausenkurse in Kürten, Germany.

He has lectured at the Hôpital Foch in Paris, the Leipzig University, the Freie Universität in Berlin, the Normal University in Taiwan, Stanford University, UCSB and IRCAM. He has participated in panel discussions at the University of Toronto with Helmuth Rilling.

Isherwood co-taught a semester long course on voice and electronics with Harvard Professor Hans Tutschku at the Montbéliard Conservatory.

He was chosen by SMU to teach its voice students studying in Paris.

Isherwood has been visiting professor of voice and opera at SUNY at Buffalo, Notre Dame, Calarts, the University of Oregon and the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris.

He has published articles in the Journal of the Scelsi Foundation and the Journal of Singing and his book Techniques of Singing will be published by Bärenreiter Verlag in 2012.