

# PEER GYNT

Your family's first symphony experience



# Grieg & Ibsen hilariously reunited

This bespoke version of *Peer Gynt* remarries some of the most famous music ever written to Ibsen's theatrical spectacle. A concert adaptation unlike any other, with puppetry, dance, beloved actors, and comedy.

All eight of Grieg's most famous tunes are intact, plus over a dozen movements from his original incidental score of 1876 – lost until the 1980s.

The cut is sensitively constructed to create a new standard for this cherished work.





## **Ideal family fare**

“You could listen to the four hour play, or this spring you could just take the kids to the BSO, where director Bill Barclay is staging a family-friendly, 75-minute condensed version of the play featuring actors from Concert Theatre Works and live accompaniment from the orchestra.

There is no better way to introduce your child to classical music than with incredible storytelling merged with true musical excellence.”

*The Boston Globe*

## The iconic adaptation

The Boston Symphony Orchestra commissioned Bill Barclay to write and direct *Peer Gynt* in 2017.

An instant hit, the production has gone on to standing ovations and rave reviews at Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (Ken-David Masur, conductor) and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (conducted by Louis Langree and featuring Pekka Kuusisto).

It is being revived at the BSO March 7–9 2024, before going on to St Louis Symphony Orchestra in 2025 (Stéphane Denève, cond.)

It still has not had its UK debut.



## Hilarious puppetry, clowning and humor

Ibsen's original tale is enormous and bizarre. An amoral Rip van Winkle, Peer Gynt ages 60 years, traveling the world and screwing up wherever he goes. This production condenses his episodic life with a tight ensemble of eight incredible actors who play all the cameo goof balls along the way.

The infamous Troll King gets two of the big comedic scenes, occasionally improvising to play with the audience.



## Featuring musical luminaries

Two major soloists perform the onstage music in costume.

Camilla Tilling and Georgia Jarman have both performed as Solveig, speaking text with the actors and being involved in the action onstage.

Pekka Kuusisto (pictured, right), performed the role of the onstage hardanger fiddler in *Cincinnati*, after opening the program with Danial Bjarnason's violin concerto.

This adaptation comes in two versions: the shorter cut (75 minutes, following an overture or concerto), or the full length, two act version of 100 minutes with an intermission.





## A complete package of the performing arts

Actors, singers, actors, dance, comedy, singing and design adorn the most famous classical tunes ever written. Something to please everyone, inspiring every child to engage with the arts.

“Whimsical, entertaining, and eye-opening... It unfolded cinematically...enhanced by a hilarious bit of puppetry.”

CINCINNATI BUSINESS COURIER

“Barclay’s stage direction made full use of the space, and simple props of chairs, tables, and coat racks left the Norwegian countryside and other exotic locations up to the imagination.”

BOSTON CLASSICAL MUSIC REVIEW







## **Marketing & structure**

The production would perform three times in a weekend, aimed at 12,000 tickets sold.

Without brand-named actors, Boston sold over 5,000 tickets, and Cincinnati over 3,000.

Strong appeal is why the Boston Symphony Orchestra are reviving the production this season. It has a proven track record of pleasing a large audience.

It is marketed exactly like a holiday panto – but out of panto season. A fun annual romp with audience participation, and a universal hero's journey drawn straight from classic literature.

## Mission critical

This is about getting young people into classical music.

We are all responsible to ensuring that kids and students have an unforgettable first experience with classical music.

This production achieves that mission, providing a hilarious family trip for all ages, while platforming excellent music that musicians love to perform.

“A boy remarked to his mother as everyone awoke in the cacophony and chaos of the street outside, “Mom, that was everything!”  
Yes, it was, and more.”

BACHTRACK



## Media & references

The trailer from the Boston Symphony Orchestra can be viewed [HERE](#), where many of the production assets live.

Full video capture from the BSO available on request.

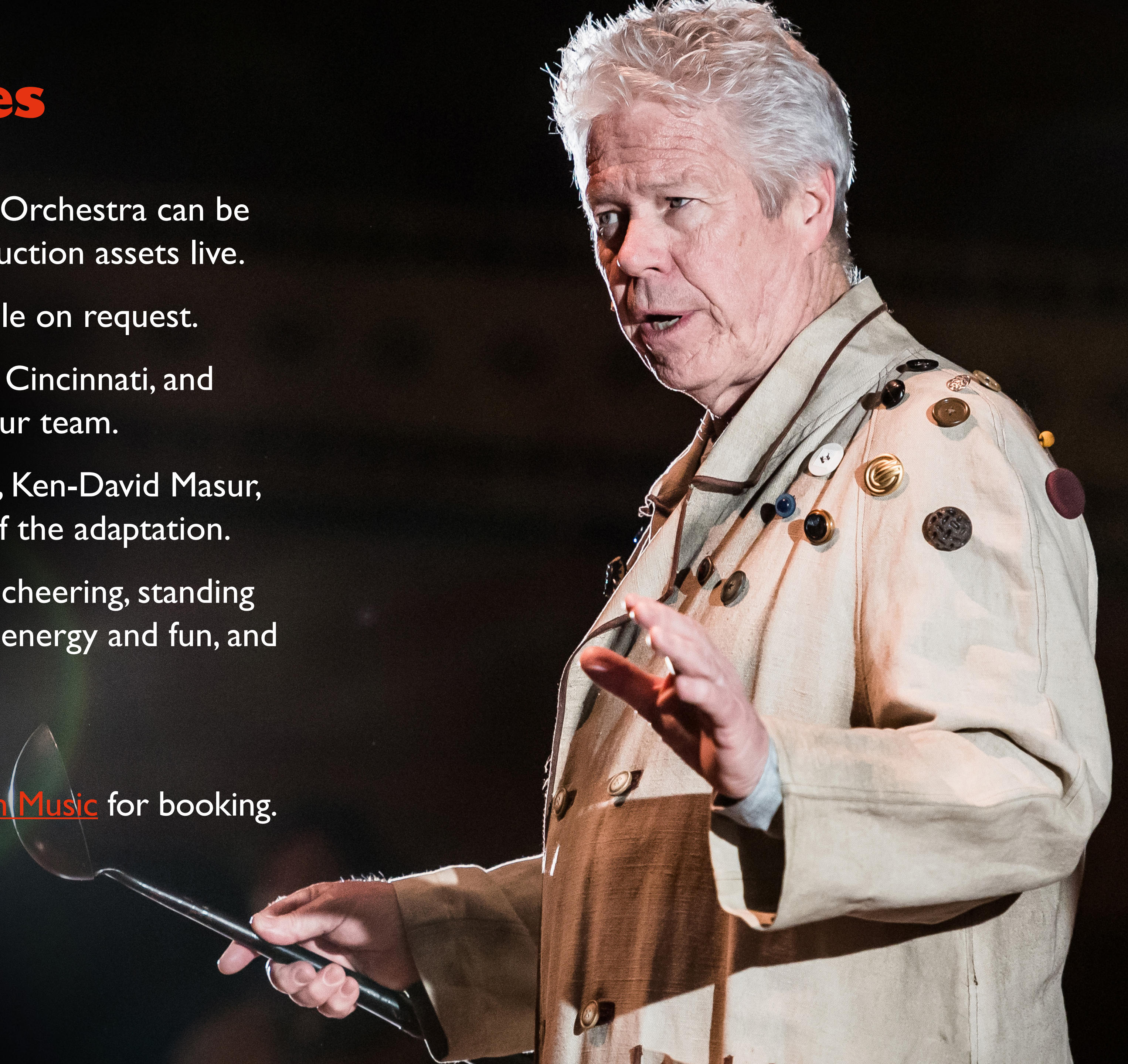
The VPs of Artistic Planning at the BSO, Cincinnati, and Milwaukee would love to speak with your team.

International conductors Louis Langree, Ken-David Masur, and Andris Nelsons are all champions of the adaptation.

“The result, which won and deserved a cheering, standing ovation, was witty and engaging, full of energy and fun, and flowed seamlessly.”

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Please contact [Anthony Acocella of Dorn Music](#) for booking.

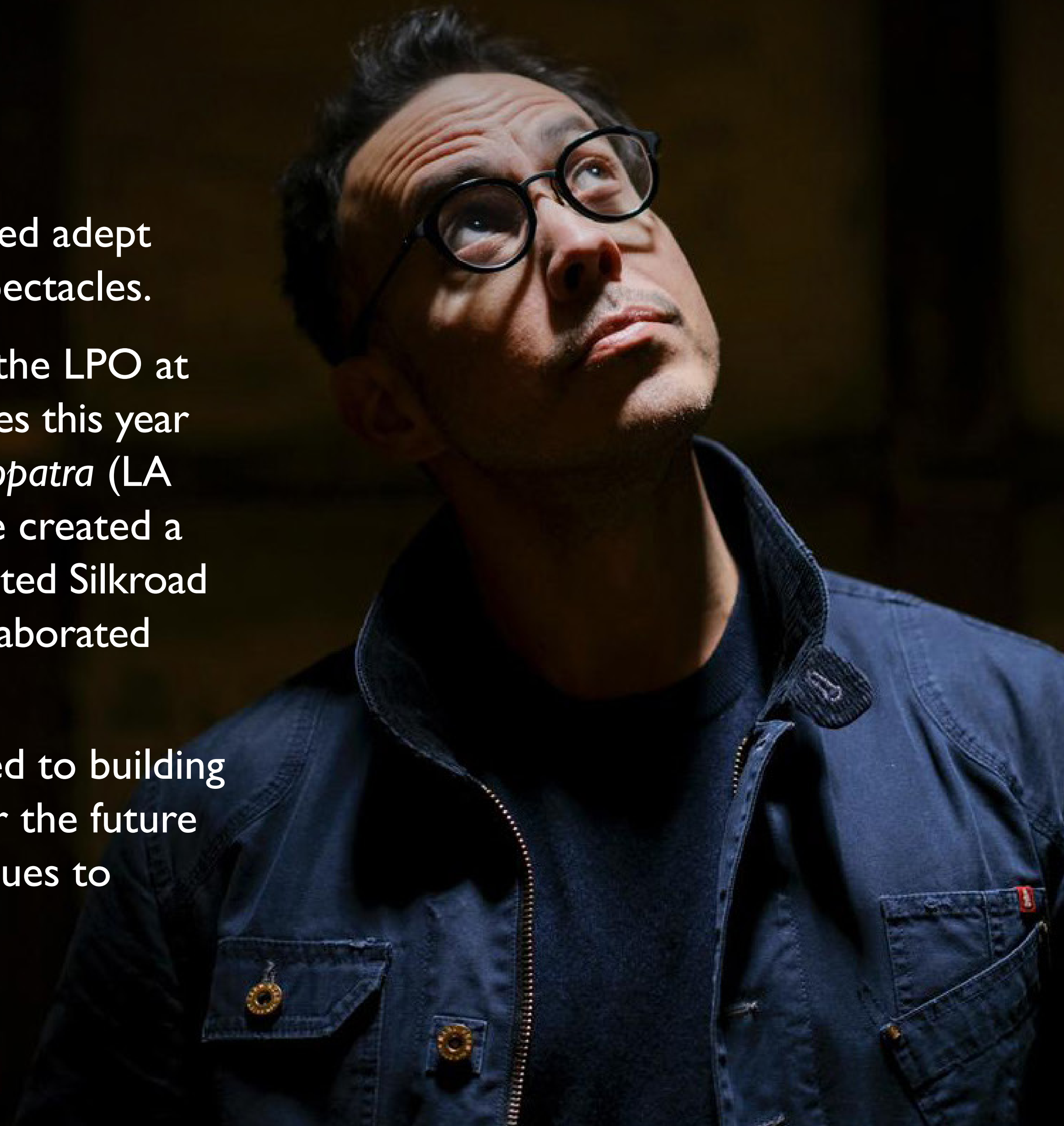


## Bill Barclay & Concert Theatre Works

Former director of music at Shakespeare's Globe, Barclay has proved adept at bringing new audiences into classical music with large touring spectacles.

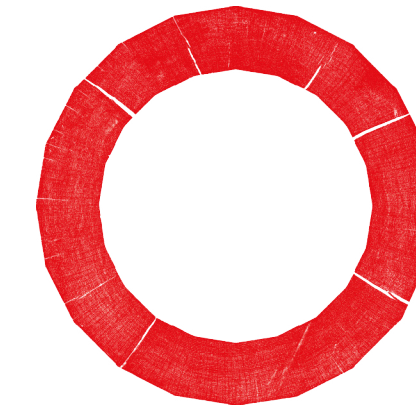
Recent productions include *The Chevalier* (12 orchestras including the LPO at Snape Maltings and the West End), *Secret Byrd* (15 international venues this year alone, featuring The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork), and *Antony & Cleopatra* (LA Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, BBC SO at the Barbican). He created a Beethoven 9 for Marin Alsop at the Southbank Centre and has directed Silkroad Ensemble in large performances at The Kennedy Center. He has collaborated with Mark Rylance over 12 times, including three Broadway shows.

Concert Theatre Works, Inc. is an international non-profit dedicated to building new audiences for classical music. Believing stories are essential for the future of concert music, CTW tours theatre to orchestras and found venues to mount game-changing spectacles in few rehearsals.



HOLLYWOOD BOWL

barbican



SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

The Kennedy Center  
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Tanglewood

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

St Martin in the Fields

SO BBC Symphony Orchestra

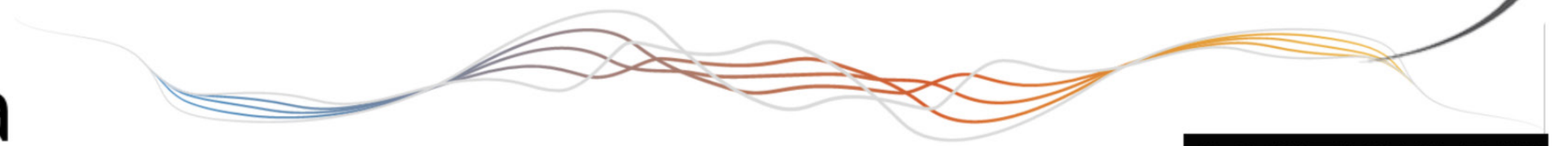
LA Phil

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA

BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

London Philharmonic Orchestra



National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain

CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA

CSO CINCINNATI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



SILKROAD

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

MISO MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
KEN-DAVID MASUR / MUSIC DIRECTOR

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

# A moral with heart, deep truths and meaning.

**PEER** So what will you do now your candle's all spent?  
**TROLL** I thought of becoming an actor – have you seen the advertisement?  
**PEER** Gadzukes, who all for – twelve short angry men?  
**TROLL** No – 'Genuine Norwegian Brethren'.  
Stock characters you know, from old books and folklore.  
**PEER** You'll fit right in friend, who composed the score?  
**TROLL** A chap called Grieg, fact he mentioned you twice!  
**PEER** What, really?  
**TROLL** No sorry, just trying to be nice.  
They've all forgotten you Peer, it's been fifty years!  
And what you've let lapse remains in arrears.  
There's one still remembers though, she lives up the hill.  
She sings every day for the good old world still.  
**PEER** Solveig?  
**TROLL** Yes, the dear.  
You didn't deserve her then, and you sure's hell don't now.  
But why don't you see what the sweet fates allow.  
And with that I ask, before my audition.  
Spare copper sir, for my thespian mission?

**PEER** Come ON, that's too good, listen pal, take a hint.  
I'm sorry to tell you, you've got the wrong Gynt.  
**BUTTON** I've made no mistake and you very well know it!  
No more games! Stop playing and cajoling.  
Tour death is here with no withholding.  
**PEER** My death.  
**BUTTON** Do proceed.  
**PEER** Yes just first but one question:  
Was the Gyntian Self not a glorious exception?  
I've sinned, but been tru to myself since inception –  
**BUTTON** And yet you've perfected life's greatest deception!  
Excelling as Self is transcending oneself:  
To master desire, intention and thought –  
To share with teh world the best that you've got.  
And thus your spirit moves from pain,  
To others' love where Self doth best remain.  
**PEER** So Self belongs in others' laps?  
**BUTTON** Laps, minds or hearts, there's yet some gaps  
Of interpretation in the name of grace.  
**PEER** I beg you for some further time or space!

