CHRISTINE BRANDES, Conductor

Following a distinguished international singing career, during which she was acclaimed for her radiant, crystalline voice and superb musicianship across a broad repertoire, Christine Brandes brings her passionate and insightful energies to the podium, garnering praise for performances in the opera house and on the symphonic stage.

During the 2024-25 season Christine Brandes makes conducting debuts both at the Florida Grand Opera in a new production of *Die Zauberflöte*, and at The Atlanta Opera in a new production of *Semele* directed by General and Artistic Director Tomer Zvulun. Following the success of her Seattle Opera debut last season leading a critically acclaimed production of Handel’s *Alcina* directed by Tim Albery, Christine Brandes returns to the company in 2025 to conduct a presentation of Barrie Kosky’s audience-favorite production of *Die Zauberflöte*.

Highlights of the last season include debuts at Wolf Trap Opera leading a new production of Mozart’s *Così fan tutte* and a new production of Vivaldi’s *Ottone in villa* with Carnegie Mellon University Opera. On the concert stage her debuts included performances of the Duruflé and Fauré Requiems with Les Violons du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec and a program of Bach Cantatas with Choir of Trinity Wall Street and the Trinity Baroque Orchestra.

In the summer of 2023, Ms. Brandes, stepping in as the last-minute replacement for Richard Egarr, conducted the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra at the Newport Classical Music Festival in a program that included Handel Concerti Grossi and the East Coast premiere of Mason Bates’ *Appalachian Ayre*. She also conducted the world premiere of *Loud* by Jimmy López Bellido during the debut performance of the International Pride Orchestra in San Francisco.

A 2021–22 fellow of the Dallas Opera Hart Institute for Women Conductors, previous seasons have afforded Christine Brandes podiums leading Handel’s *Messiah* with the Virginia Symphony, Handel’s *Giulio Cesare* for West Edge Opera, and two productions of Gluck’s *Orfeo ed Euridice*, one for West Edge Opera and an innovative adaption by Victory Hall Opera, which interwove a new play that was performed by deaf actors. Additionally, she has led productions of Haydn’s *Armide* and Rameau’s *La Sympathie* for Victory Hall Opera.

As a singer, she has performed principal roles for the following opera companies: San Francisco, Seattle, Washington National, Houston Grand, Minnesota, New York City Opera, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Glimmerglass among others. She has sung with the following orchestras: Cleveland, Chicago, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta, Detroit, Seattle, Minnesota, the National Symphony, and with such distinguished conductors as Sir Simon Rattle, Pierre Boulez, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Dame Jane Glover, Bernard Labadie and Nicholas McGegan, among many others.