



CHRISTINE BRANDES, Conductor

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

Christine Brandes leads a new production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* at Temple University in 2026-27 and returns to conduct Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity in New York City for a Passion Pasticcio. In 2027, she will be launching a new chamber orchestra in Oakland, CA.

The California-based conductor made her debut last season at Chicago Opera Theater leading a production of Salieri's *Falstaff* directed by Robin Guarino and other highlights included a program of Bach Cantatas at The Holy Trinity in New York City, a gala program leading the Orchestra of Saint Luke's, a special concert performance of Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* and Reza Vali's *The Darkness of Fury* with the Pride Orchestra at Houston's Wortham Center, and an original program, *Pearls of Sorrow*, with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in which she and countertenor Reginald Mobley explored musical common spaces between the Thirty Years' War in Europe and the institution of chattel slavery. She was also the cover conductor for Bernard Labadies' appearance with the Milwaukee Symphony.

Highlights of the recent past include *Die Zauberflöte* at Florida Grand Opera and Seattle Opera, a new production of *Semele* at The Atlanta Opera, Tim Albery's acclaimed production of *Alcina* at Seattle Opera, debuts at Wolf Trap Opera leading a new production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Vivaldi's *Ottone in villa* with Carnegie Mellon University Opera, Handel's *Giulio Cesare* for West Edge Opera, and two productions of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* for both West Edge Opera and an innovative adaption for Victory Hall Opera that interwove a new play performed by deaf actors.

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On the concert stage past successes include the Duruflé and Fauré Requiems with Les Violons du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec, programs of Bach Cantatas with Choir of Trinity Wall Street and the Trinity Baroque Orchestra, Handel's Messiah with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the world premiere of *Loud* by Jimmy López Bellido during the debut performance of the International Pride Orchestra in San Francisco, and a program of Handel Concerti Grossi and the East Coast premiere of Mason Bates' *Appalachian Ayre* with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra at the Newport Classical Music Festival.

As a singer, Christine Brandes 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 distinguished conductors such as Sir Simon Rattle, Pierre Boulez, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Dame Jane Glover, Bernard Labadie, and Nicholas McGegan, among many others.

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