

# Kevin Purcell

conductor • musical director • composer • orchestrator



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Kevin is the Principal Conductor of the Australian Discovery Orchestra (ADO) comprising 64 of the finest freelance orchestral musicians drawn from across Australia. The ADO presents annual seasons of outstanding, but under-represented, orchestral repertoire rarely seen on the concert stage anywhere in the world. The ADO also maintains an active recording schedule both for its own projects and as a per-service orchestra for commercial music recording projects.

As a musical director, Kevin in theatre, Kevin has most recently worked in London conducting **Wicked** at the London Apollo Theatre and appointed musical director for the first UK/Eire National Tour.

He has had a long association with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group as well as with Cameron Mackintosh Ltd. having worked a number of musicals in London's West End, including two

years as musical director for **CATS** in the original New London Theatre production as well as being asked to oversee the premiere production in and South Korea (2003).



As a composer, Kevin has recently completed the score for the new musical **To Catch a Thief** with Peter Sham (book & lyrics) and is currently developing, with Peter, **The Ghost & Mrs. Muir**.

With long-time collaborator, Victor Kazan (book & lyrics) Kevin has composed **Rebecca** (2004), **The Stranger from Seville** (2014); previously *The Mapmaker's Opera* (NYMF 2014 Grand Jury selection; 2<sup>nd</sup> Florida Festival of New Musicals (2018) and **Castle Gillian – An Irish Tale** (2023).

Premiering In Dublin in 2025, **Castle Gillian: An Irish Tale** was also produced as a world-first, full-length 360° Virtual Reality (VR) experience which subsequently received seven international major film festival awards throughout 2023-4. The original cast recording is available on all major streaming platforms.



Previous recordings have included **16 STORIES**, released on Broadway Records™ (2022) recorded by the Australian Discovery Orchestra, comprising never previously recorded Broadway songs by 16 of the most exciting, award-winning, new writers composing for the American Musical Theatre today.

"Kevin Purcell knows  
all about  
entertainment..."

Elizabeth Fortescue  
The Daily Telegraph

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His previous 2018 release of the original orchestral music of Grammy Award-winning and seven-time Emmy nominated Hollywood composer and arranger, Nan Schwartz (Divine Art [DDA 25165](#)) is one of the most streamed orchestral albums on all major streaming services.

Kevin first came to prominence in 1994 winning the **Sir Charles Mackerras Conductor's Prize** in London, going on to assist the late maestro at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Welsh National Opera, BBC Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment over several years.

In 1995, Kevin was further honored with The **Tait Memorial Trust Conductor Award** with funding for two-years of study at the *Janáčková akademie múzických umění v Brně* (JAMU) in the Czech Republic to study conducting with the legendary Czech pedagogue, Otakar Trhlík. In this period, Kevin conducted a vast repertoire of treasured Czech music, including an invitation from San Diego Opera to assist on a production of *Rusalka* with Renée Fleming. His most recent international award was the prestigious Government of Ireland International Exchange Scholarship for advanced conducting studies in 2021.

Kevin has conducted orchestras all over the world, including the *Ensemble Intercontemporain* in Paris, Bratislava Studio Symphony Orchestra, The Synchron Stage Orchestra (Wien), Wien Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra Hradec Králové, Beethoven Chamber Orchestra, Königsgrätz Philharmonic, West Bohemian Philharmony Mariánské Lázně, Georgian State Television and Radio Orchestra (in a live television broadcast), Dinu Lipatti Philharmonic and the Silesian State Opera amongst the numerous orchestras he has led over the last forty years.

Kevin is a voting member of the Recording Academy (Grammy) and The Dramatists Guild.



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"Conductor...Kevin Purcell...drew moving and amazingly cohesive results from his forces. Strings were sweet-sounding with clarity and excellent balance maintained in the orchestral texture."

**Peter Donnelly, The Mercury, The Australian Red Cross Bushfire Appeal, Beethoven Symphony No. 9, Federation Concert Hall.**

"The whole concert had a wonderful energy about it, which came from Music Director Kevin Purcell's dynamic leadership, and his obvious rapport with the musicians."

**Lyman Leathers, Gazette Music Critic, The Delaware Gazette**

"Purcell conducts the 24-piece orchestra with crystalline clarity, lilting rhythm and passion."

**Michael Grossberg, Theatre Critic  
Columbus Dispatch, USA**

"The elegant and stylish conductor was Kevin Purcell. He got to the core of the music."

**Michael Dawney  
Evening Echo  
Bournemouth, UK**

As composer:

"*The Mapmaker's Opera*...brings alive a place and its people as few musicals these days, particularly at NYMF, are able to manage. It's in many ways...dazzling."

**Matthew Murray, Talkinbroadway.com**

"Kevin Purcell and Victor Kazan's *The Mapmaker's Opera* has a lot going for it: ...featuring a score of vibrant flamenco music...has the premise of a truly great romantic musical."

**Zachary Stewart, Theatermania.com**

"*The Mapmaker's Opera* is an exceptional musical with Book & Lyrics by Victor Kazan and Music by Kevin Purcell...The traditional, well-executed score features music that is contemporary and uplifting, with Flamenco and Mariachi influences."

**Marcina Zaccaria, TheaterPizzazz.com**

"The music...is glorious sung by voices that understand musicality. This dynamic score by Kevin Purcell is based on Gypsy Flamenco, Latino and regional Mexican infused styles."

**T2online.com (Times Square Chronicles)**

Press & Reviews