

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. Kevin's musical experience extends across all genres. He has performed on the same stage as a keyboardist with major popular music acts including Tina Turner and America and conducted numerous film score soundtrack sessions. He is also regarded as one of the world's finest orchestrators for US orchestra Pops programs, having arranged music for The Boston Pops, New York Pops, The Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts as well as New York City Opera amongst others.

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. Immediately prior, Kevin studied with Gennady Rozhdestvensky at the Moscow Conservatory (1992) on scholarship, followed by a year at Opera Australia as the recipient of the Willem van Otterloo scholarship. In 2015, Kevin returned to study with his long-time mentor, the late Harold Farberman, at Bard College. He went on to complete his DMA in 2023. Kevin is only one of a handful of musicians with separate doctorates in both Music and Theatre.



In 1995, Kevin was further honoured with The **Tait Memorial Trust Conductor Award** with funding for two-years of study at the *Janáčkova akademie múzických umění v Brně* (JAMU) in the Czech Republic to study conducting with the legendary Czech pedagogue,

Kevin's recordings, to date, have included 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.

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
Mirror

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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** (1996-7) in the original New London Theatre production as well as being asked to oversee the premiere production in and South Korea (2003).

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.

As a composer, Kevin has recently completed the score for the new musical **To Catch a Thief** with Peter Sham (book & lyrics). With long-time collaborator, Victor Kazan (book & lyrics) Kevin has previously composed **Rebecca** (2004), **The Mapmaker's Opera** (2014) NYMF 2014 Grand Jury selection; 2nd 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.

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