



For Immediate Release

EDWARD GARDNER APPOINTED MUSIC DIRECTOR, ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

Edward Gardner has been appointed Music Director of English National Opera. He will take up his position in May 2007 when he will conduct the revival of ENO's Olivier-nominated production of *La clemenza di Tito* in the 2006/2007 Sky & Artsworld Season. He will be part of the Company as Music Director Designate with immediate effect.

"We are delighted that Edward is making this long-term commitment to ENO. He is a natural collaborator and all the Company is really looking forward to working with him," commented Loretta Tomasi, Chief Executive, ENO.

John Berry, Artistic Director, ENO, added: *"Edward's qualities as a musician and his natural rapport with both singers and creative teams make his appointment a major coup for ENO. His debut with *Così fan tutte* last Season further confirmed his standing as one of the leading British conductors."*

British-born Edward Gardner, who was appointed Music Director of Glyndebourne on Tour in 2003, now conducts many of the world's leading orchestras and opera companies. He is currently making his debut at the Royal Opera Linbury Studio with Mozart *Il re pastore*, returns to the Paris Opera for a new production of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'amore* and this summer makes his debut in the main Glyndebourne Festival season conducting some performances of *Fidelio*. He has conducted many of the major UK orchestras including the Hallé Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra to whom he returns regularly as well as the Philharmonia Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the English Chamber Orchestra. Internationally, he has recently conducted the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony and Camerata Salzburg, and will continue the season with Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, MDR Leipzig, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra amongst others. Last year his achievements were recognized by an award from the Royal Philharmonic Society.

Edward Gardner said, *"I am thrilled to become Music Director of ENO at such an exciting time, and very much look forward to working with the Company's orchestra, chorus and artists, as well as with ENO's whole administrative staff and creative team. Alongside all the members of the Company, I am committed to dedicating myself to the future artistic growth of ENO and to investing the time and presence required to shape its new future."*

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The search for a new Music Director for ENO began in January 2006. A Company Working Group was formed consisting of members of the orchestra, chorus and music department inputting into the search committee chaired by ENO Board member Nicholas Kenyon. The other members of the search committee were Loretta Tomasi (Chief Executive), John Berry (Artistic Director), Martin Fitzpatrick (Head of Music, ENO), ENO Board members Lesley Garrett, Janis Susskind, and Vernon Ellis and external advisor, Gavin Henderson. Gavin is Principal and Chief Executive of Trinity College of Music as well as Artistic Director of Dartington International Summer School.

Notes To Editors

1. ENO recently celebrated double success at the 2006 Laurence Olivier Awards winning in both opera categories. *Madam Butterfly* – directed by Anthony Minghella – won Best New Opera Production and Simon Keenlyside won the award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera for his title role in *Billy Budd* and for Winston in the Royal Opera House's production of 1984.
2. Currently on stage at the London Coliseum are ENO's productions of *Sir John In Love* (Vaughan Williams) and *Rigoletto* (Verdi). *La Belle Hélène* opens on April 3rd.

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