

# SVENSKA KONSERTBYRÅN AB

## Andrew Parrott conductor

Conductor Andrew Parrott is perhaps best known for over 50 pioneering recordings (principally for EMI) of pre-classical repertory – from Machaut to Handel – with the London-based TAVERNER CONSORT, CHOIR AND PLAYERS, which he founded in 1973. Parrott's musical range is broad, and he works extensively with both period- and modern-instrument orchestras and with opera companies, in a huge range of repertoire. Besides co-editing the 700-page *New Oxford Book of Carols* (1992), he has published several major articles on Monteverdi, Purcell and Bach and a book, *The Essential Bach Choir* (2000; German translation 2003). A further long-awaited book is inching towards completion.

In 2002 Andrew Parrott was appointed Musical Director of the period-instrument NEW YORK COLLEGIUM, with whom he continues to present ground-breaking programmes of baroque music – from Giovanni Gabrieli to Rameau. Until recently he also held the post of Music Director and Principal Conductor of the LONDON MOZART PLAYERS, where he explored the classical repertoire in particular. Programs frequently featured dramatic music with narration by distinguished actors, which led to the commissioning of Jonathan Dove's **The Crocodiamond**, a children's work for orchestra and narrator, premièred in November 2003 with actor Simon Callow. Contemporary music has always played an important part in Andrew Parrott's musical life and for several years he was an assistant to Sir Michael Tippett. He conducted the world première of Judith Weir's **A Night at the Chinese Opera** (which he later recorded with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra) and has made CDs of new music by other British composers (including John Tavener), by Vladimír Godár (with the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra) and by Arvo Pärt. A recent Taverner Choir recording, **Requiem: Songs in Memory** and **Beslan** by the British composer Nick Bicât, is due for release.

For Toronto's OPERA ATELIER he has conducted productions of Lully's **Armide**, Gluck's **Iphigénie en Tauride** and **Orphée**, and of Mozart's **Figaro**, **Magic Flute** and **Don Giovanni**, all with the period-instrument orchestra Tafelmusik. Predictably enough, Mozart also figured prominently in Parrott's guest conducting in 2006, which included a series of anniversary concerts with the HELSINGBORG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. Elsewhere in Sweden he has recently embarked on a complete recording of Beethoven's piano concertos with the Dutch pianist Ronald Brautigam and the NORRKÖPING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA. In July 2007 his Taverner forces, comprising musicians drawn from nine countries and including some members of The New York Collegium performed Monteverdi's **1610 Vespers** in Bavaria.

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