

# André Previn Biography and Works



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Conductor, composer, and pianist André Previn has received numerous awards and honors for his outstanding musical accomplishments, including both the Austrian and German Cross of Merit, and the Glenn Gould Prize. He is the recipient of Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Kennedy Center, the London Symphony Orchestra, Gramophone Classic FM, and in 2010 was honored with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award from The Recording Academy. He has also received several Grammy awards for recordings, including the CD of his *Violin Concerto* ("Anne-Sophie") and Bernstein's *Serenade*, featuring Anne-Sophie Mutter together with the Boston and London Symphony orchestras. In 1999, he was honored as Musical America's "Musician of the Year," and was knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1996.

The venerable Houston Grand Opera premiered Previn's second opera, *Brief Encounter*, in May 2009. One of the most anticipated new operas in years, *Brief Encounter* is based on David Lean's classic film adaptation of a play by Noël Coward. An honest and compassionate look at emotional infidelity, *Brief Encounter*, with a libretto by John Caird, featured Elizabeth Futral and Nathan Gunn as Laura and Alec, a couple torn between love and honor. Patrick Summers conducted. Deutsche Grammophon released *Brief Encounter* on CD with Houston Grand Opera in April 2011.

Enjoying a fruitful and ongoing relationship with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Previn recently led the group in premieres of three orchestral commissions: *Owls*; the *Double Concerto for Violin, Contrabass, and Orchestra*, with soloists Anne-Sophie Mutter and Roman Patkoló; and his *Violin Concerto*, "Anne-Sophie," written for Anne-Sophie Mutter. Mutter and Previn have toured the concerto extensively, and Deutsche Grammophon released a recording in 2003. November 2011 saw the *Clarinet Quintet* debut and in October 2010 the Boston Symphony Chamber Players premiered *Octet for Eleven*, a chamber work commissioned by the Boston Symphony Chamber Players; both performances were in Symphony Hall. *Music for Boston* premiered in August 2012 at Tanglewood, and was commissioned to honor the festival's 75th anniversary.

Previn's *Concerto for Cello and Orchestra*, commissioned by the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, premiered in June 2011 with the composer leading the orchestra and cellist Daniel Müller-Schott. Previn accompanied Boston Symphony Orchestra clarinetist Thomas Martin in the world and US premieres of *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano* at the Prague Spring International Music Festival in May 2010 and at

Boston's Symphony Hall in November 2011. Other recent works include: a piano trio for the Kalichstein-Laredo Robinson Trio; a violin sonata for Anne-Sophie Mutter; a violin concerto for Anne-Sophie Mutter and the Trondheim Soloists; and the *Triple Concerto* for horn, trumpet, and tuba for the Pittsburgh Symphony. He has also been commissioned and written works for Vladamir Ashkenazy, Yo-Yo Ma, Janet Baker, Sylvia McNair, and Barbara Bonney. *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, for the London Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with playwright Tom Stoppard, continues to be performed worldwide, with a Carnegie Hall premiere in May 2011.

*A Streetcar Named Desire*, which Mr. Previn set to a libretto by Philip Littell based on Tennessee Williams' play, had its premiere at the San Francisco Opera on September 19, 1998, with soprano Renée Fleming in the role of Blanche du Bois. The opera has since been performed worldwide, and Mr. Previn's 1998 recording of the work with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra won the Grand Prix du Disque. André Previn's discography spans more than 50 years of recordings for all of the major labels. His 1999 Deutsche Grammophon release "American Scenes" — a collection of piano and violin works performed with violinist Gil Shaham and containing his own work *Sonata for Violin*, "Vineyard" — won a Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance. Other recent Deutsche Grammophon releases include "Celebration," a disc containing world premiere recordings of his *Violin Concerto* and five other Previn compositions, including *Diversions*, commissioned by the Mozarteum/Salzburg for the Vienna Philharmonic, and *The Giraffes Go to Hamburg*, written for Renée Fleming. Also among his recent releases for the Decca label is "Live at the Jazz Standard" with bassist David Finck, featuring a variety of jazz standards and some of Mr. Previn's own new works. In 1991, Doubleday released Mr. Previn's memoir "No Minor Chords — My Early Days in Hollywood," chronicling his years as a composer, arranger, and orchestrator at the MGM studios.

André Previn's concert music is published by G. Schirmer, Inc. and Chester Music Ltd.

— September 2012

# Opera and Music Theatre

## **Brief Encounter** (2007)

Text: John Caird

*Libretto by John Caird.*

Solo: Solo: 4 Soprano, Mezzo-soprano, Contralto, 4 Baritone, Bass, non-singing roles

3(pic).2(ca).2+bcl.2/4331/timp.2perc/cel.hp/str;  
onstage piano trio (vn, vc, pf) in Act I, Scene 6

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Every Good Boy Deserves Favour** (1976)

Text: (English) Tom Stoppard

Solo: 6 actors

3(pic)3(ca)3(Ebcl,bcl)3(cbn)/5331/timp.4perc/  
hp.org/actor's triangle/Sacha's voice/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Every Good Boy Deserves Favour (Mermaid Version)** (1976)

Text: (English) Tom Stoppard

*A play for actors and orchestra*

Solo: 6 actors

1(pic)1(ca)2(Ebcl.bcl)1/2220/3perc/hp[org]/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **A Streetcar Named Desire** (1997)

Text: (English) Libretto by Philip Littell,

based on the play by Tennessee Williams

Solo: 2S, 2Mz, 2T, 2Bar; 3 non-singing roles

3(2pic+2af1).2(ca).3(2Ebcl+asx+bcl).2(cbn)/4331/  
timp(bdr).2perc/hp.cel/str

*Performance materials on rental*

# Orchestra

## **Diversions** (1999)

2(pic).2.2(Ebcl,bcl).2(cbn)/2.1.0.0/timp.2perc/cel.hp/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Music for Boston** (2012)

2+pic.2+ca.2+ebcl+bcl.2+cbn/4.3.3.1/timp.perc/hp/str

## **Night Thoughts** (2005)

3(pic).2+ca.2+Ebcl+bcl.2/4.3.3.1/timp.2perc/cel.hp/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Owls** (2008)

2(pic).2(ca).2+bcl.2/4.3.0.0/tmp.perc/cel.hp/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Principals** (1980)

3(pic).2+ca.3(Ebcl)+bcl.2+cbn/4331/timp.perc/  
hp.pf(cel)/str

*Performance materials on rental*

# Soloist(s) and Orchestra

## **Concerto for Cello and Orchestra** (2010)

Solo: Cello

3(pic).2+ca.2+bcl.2/4.3.3.1/timp.2perc/hp.cel/  
str (14.12.10.8.6)

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Concerto for Guitar** (1971)

Solo: Guitar

2(pic).2(ca).2(Ebcl)+bcl.2/4.2.0.0/2perc.jazz  
dms.Fender/egtr.hp/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Concerto for Harp and Orchestra** (2007)

Solo: Harp

3(pic).2(ca).2+bcl.2+cbn/4.2.2+btbn.1/timp.2perc/  
cel/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Concerto for Piano** (1985)

Solo: piano

3(pic).2+ca.3(Ebcl,asx:bcl).3(cbn)/4331/  
timp.4perc/hp/str[=double str orch]

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Concerto for Violin and String Orchestra** (2010)

Solo: vn

hpd, str

## **Concerto for Violin, Viola, and Orchestra** (2009)

Solo: Violin, Viola

3.2+ca.2+bcl.2/4.3.3.1/timp.2perc.hp/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Double Concerto for Violin, Contrabass, and Orchestra** (2007)

Solo: Violin, Bass

3(pic).2+ca.2+ebcl+bcl.2+cbn/4.2.3.1/timp.2perc/hp/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **Honey & Rue** (1992)

Text: Toni Morrison

Solo: Soprano

22(ca).22/2201/jazz drums/jazz bass/hp.pf/str

*Performance materials on rental*

## **I Can Smell the Sea Air**

(from "A Streetcar Named Desire") (1997)

Text: (English) Philip Littell, based on the play by Tennessee Williams

Solo: Soprano

2.1+ca.3.2(cbn)/4.3.3.1/timp.cel.hp/str

*Performance materials on rental*

# Work List

# André Previn

**I Want Magic****(from "A Streetcar Named Desire")** (1997)

Text: (English) Philip Littell, based on the play by Tennessee Williams

Solo: Soprano

3(afl).2.2+bcl.0/4.3.3.0/vib.cel.hp/str

*Performance materials on rental***The Magic Number** (1997)

Text: (English) Dory Previn Shannon

Solo: Soprano

2.2(ca).2(bcl).2(cbn)/4.2.0.0/2perc/hp.cel/str

*Performance materials on rental***Reflections** (1981)

Solo: cor anglais [=cello]

2(pic).2.2(bcl).2/4.2.2.0/timp.perc/hp/str(8.7.6.5.4)

*Performance materials on rental***Sallie Chisum Remembers Billy the Kid** (1995)

Text: Michael Ondaatje, from a text by Walter Noble Burns

Solo: Soprano

2.2.2(bcl).2/2.2.0.0/perc/str

Alt: Soprano and pf

*Performance materials on rental***Song (from Tango Song and Dance)** (1997)

arr. (2007)

Solo: Violin

2.2.2+bcl.2/2.0.0.0/hp/str

*Performance materials on rental***Suite from A Streetcar Named Desire** (1999)

Text: (English) Philip Littell, based on the play by Tennessee Williams.

Solo: Soprano, Tenor

3(2pic+2afl).2(ca).3(2Ebcl,asx,bcl).2(cbn)/

4.3.3.1/timp(bdr).2perc/hp.cel/str

*Performance materials on rental***Triple Concerto** (2011)*Available for performances after March 2013*

Solo: Horn, Trumpet, Tuba

3(pic).2+ca.2+bcl.2/0.0.2+btbn.0/timp.perc/hp/str

**Violin Concerto ("Anne-Sophie")** (2001)

Solo: Violin

3(pic).2+ca.2+bcl.2+cbl.2/4.3.3.0/timp.2perc/cel.hp/str

*Performance materials on rental***Vocalise** (1995)

Solo: voice, cello

1100/1000/str

Alt: soprano / vc / pf

*Performance materials on rental*

# Works for Band/Wind/Brass Ensemble

**Triolet for Brass** (1985)

hn.4tpt.4tbn.tba

*Performance materials on rental*

# Large Ensemble (7 or more players)

**Octet for Eleven** (2010)

fl, ob, cl, bn, hn, tpt, 2vn, va, vc, db

*Performance materials on rental*

# Works for 2-6 Players

**Cello Sonata** (1993)

vc, pf

**Clarinet Quintet** (2011)*Available for performances after May 2013*

cl, 2vn, va, vc

**Four Outings for Brass**

horn, 2 trumpets, trombone, tuba

**Hoch soll Er Leben** (1997)

hn, 2tpt, tbn, tba

*Performance materials sold by Rental Library***Peaches** (1978)

flute/pf

**Piano Trio** (2009)

vn, vc, pf

**Sonata for Bassoon and Piano** (1999)

bn, pf

**Sonata for Clarinet and Piano** (2010)

cl, pf

*Performance materials sold by Rental Library***Sonata for Violin "Vineyard"** (1994)

vn, pf

**Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano** (2011)

vn, pf

**Tango Song and Dance** (1997)

vn, pf

**Two Little Serenades**

vn, pf

**Trio for Piano, Oboe and Bassoon** (1985)

ob.bsn/pf

**Trio No. 2** (2012)*Available for performances after May 2014*

vn, vc, pf

**A Wedding Waltz** (1986)

Solo: 2 oboes

2ob.pf

## Solo Keyboard(s)

**Matthew's Piano Book** (1979)

piano

**Paraphrase on a Theme of William Walton** (1973)

piano

**Variations on a Theme by Haydn** (1990)

piano

## Solo Voice(s) and up to 6 players

**Five Songs** (1977)

Text: Philip Larkin

mezzo soprano/pf

**Four Songs** (2004)

Text: (English) William Carlos Williams and Phillip Larkin

Solo: Tenor

pf

**Four Songs** (1994)

Text: Toni Morrison

Solo: Soprano

cello/piano

**The Giraffes go to Hamburg** (2000)

Text: (English) Isak Dinesen; "Out of Africa"

Solo: voice, afl

pf

**I Can Smell the Sea Air****(from "A Streetcar Named Desire")** (1997)

Text: (English) Philip Littell, based on the play by

Tennessee Williams

Solo: Soprano

piano

**I Want Magic****(from "A Streetcar Named Desire")** (1997)

Text: (English) Philip Littell, based on the play by

Tennessee Williams

Solo: Soprano

pf

**Sieben Lieder** (2006)

soprano, pf

*Performance materials sold by Rental Library***String Quartet (With Soprano)** (2003)

Solo: Soprano

2vn, va, vc

*Performance materials sold by Rental Library***Three Dickinson Songs** (1999)

Text: (English) Emily Dickinson

Solo: Soprano

piano

**Two Remembrances** (1995)

Text: Else Lasker-Schüller (translation by Michael J.

Gillespie) and Frau Eva (trans. by Willis Barnstone)

Soprano, afl, pf

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