

ROGER WOODWARD

Yehudi Menuhin discovered Roger Woodward at the UNESCO *Jeunesses Musicales*, Paris. Within a year, the young artist made his debut at London's Royal Festival Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and began recording for the EMI, RCA, Decca, DG, and later the CPO and Universal recording companies. He rose to international prominence in a series of collaborations with Olivier Messiaen, Pierre Boulez, Jean Barraqué, Karlheinz Stockhausen, Iannis Xenakis, Arvo Pärt, John Cage, Morton Feldman, Luciano Berio, Toru Takemitsu, and prominent composers from his native Australia - in particular, Richard Meale, Anne Boyd, Ross Edwards, Barry Conyngham, and Larry Sitsky.

Critics rate many of his recordings among the all-time greats and his live performances with those of the highest echelons of pianists, as a result of appearances at La Scala, the Hollywood Bowl, Tiananmen Square, Odeon of the Herodes Atticus, Gulbenkian Gardens, Lisbon, the Royal Albert Hall, London for the BBC Promenade Concerts, *Le festival d'automne à Paris*, La biennale di Venezia, Wien Modern, New York Piano Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Warszawska Jesień, Festival de la Roque d'Anthéron, and at the invitation of the Russian pianist Sviatoslav Richter, at the celebrated Grange de Meslay, Touraine.

Woodward has performed with the New York, Los Angeles, Beijing and Israel Philharmonic Orchestras, the Cleveland Orchestra, Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester and Australian Youth Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Berlin Radio Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, six London orchestras as well as with the NZSO and Australian state orchestras, with conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Zubin Mehta, Lorin Maazel, Sir Charles Mackerras Kurt Masur, Charles Dutoit, Pierre Boulez, Edo de Waart, Herbert Bloomstedt, Paavo Berglund, Tan Li Hua, Nello Santi, Lamberto Gardelli, Georg Tintner, Arturo Tamayo, Erich Leinsdorf, Witold Rowicki.

Memorable collaborations were with Graeme Murphy, Janet Vernon and the Sydney Dance Company on Xenakis' *Kraanerg* in a series of twenty-five performances at the

Sydney Opera House, and with the Arditti, Alexander, Edinburgh, Australian, Tokyo and New York's JACK string quartets. He toured with the Vienna Trio, and with musicians such as Ivry Gitlis, Wanda Wilkomirska, Philippe Hirschhorn, Ilya Gruberts, Winfried Rademacher, Jassen Todorov, James Creitz, Rohan de Saram, Cecil Taylor, Synergy Percussion and Frank Zappa.

Distinguished awards for his recordings include the Goethe Prize, *Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik*, Germany, the *Ritmo* Prize, Spain and *Diapason d'or*, France. His performances and recordings of Bach's *Das Wohltemperierte Clavier*, partitas, of Beethoven sonatas and concertos, Brahms concertos and works of Chopin, Debussy, Bartók, Skryabin, Schoenberg, Prokofiev and Shostakovich (24 Preludes and Fugues Op.87) earned him widespread international critical recognition. So too have his performances which are widely regarded as unrivalled and prize-winning recordings of works composed for him by the contemporary giants Xenakis, Barraqué, Feldman, Takemitsu and Rădulescu.

Woodward is also a composer and conductor who directed festivals in France, Austria, the UK and Australia. He is currently Professor of Keyboard Performance at the College of Liberal and Creative Arts, California State University in San Francisco - where in 2002, he was appointed founding director of the school. He is published by HarperCollins (Sydney), the Pendragon and Greenway Presses (New York), the Celestial Harmonies recording company and ABC Classics. His early studies were at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music with Alexander Sverjensky (a pupil of Alexander Glazunov and Sergei Rakhmaninov) then with Zbigniew Drzewiecki at the Chopin National Academy of Music, Warsaw.

The artist is a recipient of distinguished honours, prizes and awards including France's *Chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres*, the Polish Order of Merit, Polish Solidarity medal, Polish *Gloria Artis* (gold class), Knight in the Order of Brefni, and Order of the British Empire. He is a Companion of the Order of Australia, recipient of the Australian Centenary Medal and in 1997 was designated a national living

treasure by the Australian National Trust.