



Alice Farnham – conductor



Ben Woodward is a British conductor, coach, and répétiteur, recognised for his authority in large-scale operatic repertoire and his collaborative, singer-focused approach. He has built a strong reputation across the UK and Europe for performances marked by clarity, energy, and musical depth.

He is Artistic Director of **Regents Opera**, London's largest independent opera company. Under his leadership, the company has delivered ambitious productions, including a complete cycle of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and major works by *Verdi*, *Strauss*, and *Puccini*. His conducting has drawn critical praise for its dramatic drive and musical detail, with **Opera Magazine** noting his "flair" and "real poetry," and **Opera Now** highlighting the "life-enhancing magic" of his *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

Woodward's career combines podium work with extensive experience as a répétiteur and vocal coach. He has held positions at leading German houses including **SH-Landestheater Flensburg**, **Staatsoper Hannover**, and **Musiktheater im Revier, Gelsenkirchen**, where he worked across a wide repertoire from *Wagner* and *Strauss* to contemporary opera and musical theatre. He has also served as Assistant Conductor at **The Royal Opera**, London, for *Il Trovatore*.

His repertoire centres on *Wagner*, *Verdi*, and *Richard Strauss*, alongside a strong commitment to 20th-century opera. He has conducted a complete *Ring Cycle* with sustained critical and organisational success, an achievement noted for its consistency and scale. Recent and upcoming projects include *Salome*, *Elektra*, *Parsifal*, and *War Requiem*.

Alongside his conducting, **Woodward** is active in artist development. He leads orchestral workshops that give singers and players practical experience of major operatic works, from *Otello* and *Wozzeck* to *Der Rosenkavalier* and *Zemlinsky's Lyric Symphony*. His work as a coach includes regular engagements with the **Berlin Opera Academy** and other training programmes, where he supports emerging artists in building sustainable international careers.

Originally trained as an organist, he was a scholar at **Trinity College, Cambridge**, and later studied at the **Guildhall School of Music and Drama**. He also holds an Executive MBA from **Quantic School of Business**, reflecting a parallel interest in organisational leadership and cultural management. His early career included continuo work in the United States and directing choral ensembles in the UK.

Woodward lives in Berlin with his wife, soprano **Catharine Woodward**.

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