



## ADAM BENZWI Curriculum Vitae

**Adam Benzwi is an American pianist, music arranger/director and conductor who has been living and working in Berlin since 1984.**

Benzwi grew up in La Jolla, California, where he began working professionally as cocktail party pianist at the tender age of twelve. He attended **Columbia University in New York and Stanford University in Berlin**. He has had a passion for musical theater since he was a young pianist and has long been dedicated to **bringing forgotten popular German music to the stage**.

He is currently musical director of Barrie Kosky's new production of Brecht/Weill's *The Threepenny*

*Opera* at Berliner Ensemble, where the piece was performed for the first time in 1928. He is currently also conducting at **Komische Oper Berlin**, where he debuted in 2013 as musical director of *Ball im Savoy*, directed by **Barrie Kosky**, followed in 2015 by *Eine Frau, die weiß, was sie will!* His third collaboration with Kosky was *Die Perlen der Cleopatra*. In December 2017, also at Komische Oper, Benzwi and Kosky collaborated again on the Paul Abraham musical comedy *Märchen im Grand Hotel*. and in 2020 *Ich wollt', ich wär ein Huhn*, an evening of Berliner songs circa 1920-1945 with Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter. Benzwi looks forward to creating and conducting *Barrie Kosky's All-Singing, All-Dancing Yiddish Revue* at the Komische Oper, June 2022.

Benzwi **began his Berlin career** at the Kleines Theater am Südwestkorso, a unique tiny theatre which offers new plays exclusively, with *Das Küssen macht so gut wie kein Geräusch*, the UFA-Revue: *Bombenstimmung* and *Blue Jeans* at the Theater des Westens, Berlin's greatest theater for musicals, and *Bezauberndes Fräulein!* at the Theater am Kurfürstendamm.

Benzwi was also the **musical director** of the legendary production of *Cabaret* (at Bar jeder Vernunft, Berlin's most renowned cabaret, a historical mirrored circus tent) and *My Fair Lady* at Admiralspalast. Most recently he conducted and rearranged the revival of Offenbach's *Die Prinzessin von Trapezunt* at Theater

für Niedersachsen, March 2019 and J.C. Bach's late baroque oper *Zanaida* at Staatstheater Mainz, November 2019.

He has **accompanied a myriad of German stage and screen stars** such as Dagmar Manzel, Andrea Sawatzki, Daniela Ziegler, Gisela May (the most renowned singer of the songs of Bertolt Brecht), Helmut Baumann (director of Theater des Westens) and, last but not least, Germany's raunchiest comedienne, Désirée Nick. He has been working with stage and screen legend Angela Winkler since 2010 and their CD *Ich liebe dich, kann ich nicht sagen* was released in 2012, followed by concerts at Théâtre des Abbesses in Paris and at Berliner Ensemble. In *Marlene* by Pam Gems/Volker Kühn, Benzwi accompanied Judy Winter "with sensitive verve" (from review in *Die Welt*.)

The **education of young artists** is of strong interest to Benzwi. A few years after arriving in Berlin, he began as the assistant to Stanley Walden to develop the four-year course for musical theater performers at the **University of the Arts, Berlin**. Today, he is on the faculty as musical director and a professor.

He was a member of the Board of Advisors for the **German National Singing Competition** 2003-2019 and accompanied the winners with his own band at the final concert at Friedrichstadtpalast, the biggest stage in Europe.

Adam Benzwi can be seen regularly **on TV and in the movies**, such as *THE FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS STORY* with Joyce DiDonato.

