



## ADAM BENZWI Curriculum Vitae

**Adam Benzwi is an American pianist, musical director and arranger who has lived and worked in Berlin since 1984.**

Benzwi grew up in La Jolla, California, where he began his professional career as a twelve-year-old cocktail pianist. He attended Columbia University in New York and Stanford University in Berlin, where his passion for musical theater arose. Adam Benzwi has dedicated much of his professional activity to bringing forgotten popular German music to the stage.

His next premiere in May 2025 will be conducting *Eine Frau von*

*Format* at Oper Köln, and he is also preparing for another opening with Barrie Kosky at Berliner Ensemble for September 2025. This season he is conducting Barrie Kosky's *Chicago* at Komische Oper Berlin, at Berliner Ensemble Andrea Breth's *Ich hab die nacht geträumet*, Barrie Kosky's *Dreigroschenoper* and *Fremder als der Mond* (Brecht Programm with Katharine Mehrling), in Vienna's Volksoper *Ein bisschen Trallala*. Benzwi also took part in the musical arrangement of all these productions. Last season, his reconstruction of the GDR Musical *Messeschlager Gisela* was sold out for all performances at Komische Oper Berlin. At Komische Oper Benzwi also conducts Barrie Kosky's productions of *Eine Frau, die weiß, was sie will!* and *Die Perlen der Cleopatra*, and in the past Barrie Kosky's *All-Singing, All-Dancing Yiddish Revue*, *Ball im Savoy*, *Ich wollt', ich wär ein Huhn!* (Berlin Programm with Anne Sofie von Otter, a recording of which will appear this autumn by Sony Music) and *Märchen im Grand Hotel*.

Benzwi has conducted J.C. Bach's *Zanaida* at Staatstheater Mainz, and arranged and performed at Theater des Westens various productions such as *Bombenstimmung: Eine UFA-Revue* and *Blue Jeans* and *Bezauberndes Fräulein!* at the Theater am Kurfürstendamm.

He was the musical director of the legendary production of *Cabaret* at Bar jeder Vernunft, still playing at TIPI in Berlin for the 20th Summer, and *My Fair Lady* at Admiralspalast. He also conducted and rearranged the revival of Offenbach's *Die Prinzessin von Trapezunt* at Theater für Niedersachsen.

He has accompanied German stage and screen stars such as Dagmar Manzel, Andrea Sawatzki, Daniela Ziegler, Gisela May, Helmut Baumann, Ralf Wolter, and, last but not least, Germany's raunchiest comedienne, Désirée Nick. He has been working with stage and screen legend Angela Winkler since 2010; their CD *Ich liebe dich, kann ich nicht sagen* was released in 2012. In *Marlene* by Pam Gems/Volker Kühn, Benzwi accompanied Judy Winter "with sensitive verve" (from review in *Die Welt*.)

Benzwi was 1987-2022 musical director and professor of the Musical Theatre Department at University of the Arts, Berlin, and a member of the Board of Advisors for the German National Singing Competition.



Photos: Jan Windszus