



ADAM BENZWI

Curriculum Vitae

Adam Benzwi is an American pianist, conductor, and arranger based in Berlin.

A longtime collaborator of renowned director Barrie Kosky, he has created musical arrangements for and conducted acclaimed productions at Komische Oper Berlin and currently conducts Kosky's *Die Dreigroschenoper* and *K.* at Berliner Ensemble, as well as Andrea Breth's *Ein deutsches Leben* at Theater in der Josefstadt in Vienna. He also conducts the Brecht evening *Fremder als der Mond* at Berliner Ensemble.

His most recent premiere, in June 2026, was *Mokka-Hits und Milchbar-Träume* at Komische Oper Berlin, which he co-created with Axel Ranisch and for which he served as arranger and conductor. During the 2025–2026 season, he conducted *Eine Frau von Format* at Oper Köln. The production was named one of the *10 Best Operas of 2025* by *Die Welt* and received the Bayerischer Rundfunk Klassik Award.

Upcoming engagements include Barrie Kosky's new production *Yentl, a Love Story*, a world premiere at Bard College (New York) in the summer of 2027. The production features musical arrangements by Adam Benzwi and is being created in collaboration with Tony Award-winning playwright Lisa Kron.

As arranger and conductor, Benzwi has collaborated with Kosky on productions including *Chicago*, *Eine Frau, die weiß, was sie will!*, *Die Perlen der Cleopatra*, Barrie Kosky's *All-Singing, All-Dancing*, *Yiddish Revue*, *Ball im Savoy*, *Ich wollt', ich wär ein Huhn!*, and *Märchen im Grand Hotel*. He also created the musical reconstruction and arrangements for the acclaimed revival of the GDR musical *Messeschlager Gisela* at Komische Oper Berlin.

Alongside his work in the theatre, Benzwi is also in demand as an arranger for recordings and concert projects. For Anne Sofie von Otter's acclaimed

album *Berlin! Berlin! Berlin!*, he created the arrangements and conducted the Salon Orchester of Komische Oper Berlin.

His credits also include Andrea Breth's *Ich hab die Nacht geträumet* at Berliner Ensemble; *Ein bisschen Trallala* at Volksoper Wien; J. C. Bach's *Zanaida* at Staatstheater Mainz; *Bombenstimmung* and *Blue Jeans* at Theater des Westens; *Bezauberndes Fräulein!* at Theater am Kurfürstendamm; and Offenbach's *Die Prinzessin von Trapezunt* at Theater für Niedersachsen.

Benzwi was musical director of the legendary production of *Cabaret* at Bar jeder Vernunft, later transferred to TIPI am Kanzleramt in Berlin, where it continues to run more than twenty years after its premiere.

Throughout his career, he has collaborated with leading German performers including Dagmar Manzel, Daniela Ziegler, Gisela May, Helmut Baumann, Désirée Nick, Judy Winter, and Angela Winkler, whose recording *Ich liebe dich, kann ich nicht sagen* was released in 2012.

From 1987 to 2022, Benzwi was Professor and Musical Director of the Musical Theatre Department at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK Berlin). He also served on the Board of Advisors of the German National Singing Competition. He studied at Columbia University in New York and at Stanford University in Berlin.



Photos: Jan Windszus