



About Ari Pelto

In May, 2015 Opera Colorado announced the appointment of Ari Pelto as the first Music Director in its history. Ari Pelto was appointed Opera Colorado's Artistic Advisor in 2013, following an acclaimed debut conducting *Don Giovanni* for the company. He recently conducted the Company's 2014 production of *Madama Butterfly*, and is also set to conduct *Aida* in the fall of 2015 and the world premiere of the new American opera *The Scarlet Letter* in 2016. Pelto is in demand at elite opera houses, ballets, symphonies, and conservatories throughout the United States. After his highly praised 2004 début at New York City Opera with Verdi's *La Traviata*, Pelto was engaged as a regular guest there, returning for *Madama Butterfly*, Jennifer Griffith's *The Dream President*, *La bohème*, and *Carmen*. Recent highlights include *La bohème* with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis and the St. Louis Symphony; *The Cunning Little Vixen* at Chautauqua; *Rusalka* and *La bohème* at Boston Lyric Opera; *Romeo et Juliet* at Minnesota Opera; *The Magic Flute*, *Figaro*, and *Hansel and Gretel* at Portland Opera; as well as *Carmen* and *Hansel and Gretel* at Utah Opera. He has also been a regular guest conductor of the Atlanta Ballet. In 2012, he collaborated with Twyla Tharp on the premiere of her new ballet, *The Princess and the Goblin*. Pelto has conducted operas of Mozart and Stravinsky at the Curtis Institute of Music, Gluck and Mozart at the Juilliard School, Puccini and Massenet at San Francisco Conservatory, and Stephen Paulus and Raffaello de Banfield at the Manhattan School of Music. At the Oberlin Conservatory, he has led works of Mahler, Mozart, and Poulenc, and at New York University, works of Sibelius, Brahms, Dvořák, and Martinu. He has also conducted in Italy, Germany, and Bulgaria. Pelto studied violin performance at Oberlin and conducting at Indiana University.