

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sir David McVicar, and I am an international opera director whose works have been produced by the leading opera theatres throughout the world, including The Royal Opera Covent Garden in London and The Metropolitan Opera in New York. I was created a Knight Bachelor in 2012 for services to opera, and continue to work regularly throughout the world.

I am writing in support of Gregory Eldridge and his application for a visa so that he may live and work in the USA and use his expertise and experience to contribute to its cultural life.

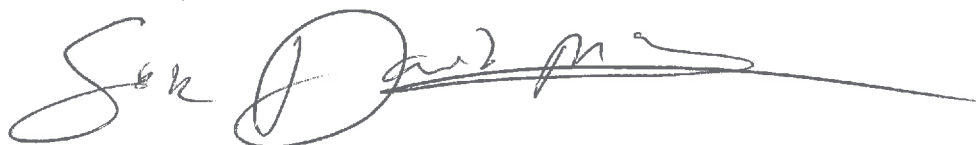
Greg has worked on several of my productions at The Royal Opera, including work on my new production of *Andrea Chenier* in 2016, and subsequently as my assistant on the 2018 revival of *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* at Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

His work as an assistant there was of such a level that I invited him to join me in Oslo, Norway on a revival of my production of *Der Rosenkavalier*. There he proved himself to be an organised and efficient member of the team, clearly able to hold his own in an international theatre and able to use his training and experience to lead the local teams there with skill. So convinced am I by his leadership skills in Norway that I have asked the English National Opera to engage him as revival director for this production when they next produce it.

I travel the world regularly and work with many of the best artists in the best theatres in the world. On the basis of my experience, I believe that Greg exhibits all the characteristics required of him in order to obtain this visa, and I recommend him most strongly as one who could bring a great deal to the artistic life of the United States by virtue of his excellence.

I am currently working with Greg on another new production at The Royal Opera – Britten's *Death in Venice* – and in this context of again working closely with him, I can confirm my support for him, for his visa application, and for his career as a leader in opera in this country and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sir David McVicar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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David McVicar

DIRECTOR

Biography

David McVicar made his Royal Opera House debut in 2001 directing Kirov Opera's production of *Macbeth*, and made his Royal Opera debut the same year directing *Rigoletto*. He has since directed *Die Zauberflöte*, *Faust*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Salome*, *Aida*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *Les Troyens* and *Andrea Chénier* for The Royal Opera. In the 2019/20 Season he stages a new production of *Death in Venice* for the Company.

McVicar was born in Glasgow and trained at the Glasgow School of Art and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama as an actor, designer and director. Productions include *Agrippina*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *Norma*, *Tosca*, *Roberto Devereux*, *Cavalleria rusticana* / *Pagliacci*, *Giulio Cesare*, *Anna Bolena*, *Maria Stuarda* and *Il trovatore* (Metropolitan Opera, New York), *Les Troyens* and *I masnadieri* (La Scala, Milan), *Gloriana* and *Don Carlo* (Teatro Real, Madrid), the Mozart-Da Ponte operas (Opera Australia), *La clemenza di Tito* (Aix-en-Provence Festival), *Rigoletto* (Savonlinna Festival), *Tristan und Isolde* and *Falstaff* (Vienna State Opera), *The Turn of the Screw*, *La clemenza di Tito* and *Medea* (English National Opera), *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Giulio Cesare* (Glyndebourne Festival), *The Rake's Progress*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La traviata* and *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Scottish Opera), *Wozzeck*, *Elektra*, *Rusalka* and *Giulio Cesare* (Lyric Opera of Chicago), *Semele* (Théâtre des Champs-Élysées), *The Turn of The Screw* and *Macbeth* (Mariinsky), *Agrippina* (Barcelona, La Monnaie, Brussels, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Frankfurt), *Der Rosenkavalier* (Scottish Opera, Opera North, Norwegian National Opera and ENO), *Medée* (Geneva), *Così fan tutte* (Strasbourg and Scottish Opera), *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Salzburg Festival) and *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (Strasbourg).

He was knighted in the 2012 Diamond Jubilee Birthday Honours List, and in the same year made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government.



●● David McVicar in rehearsal for *Aida*, The Royal Opera © ROH/Bill Cooper, 2010

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Andrea Chénier

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Salome

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Rigoletto

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Adriana Lecouvreur

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