

## **Long Biography – 347 words**

Mark Biggins is a conductor and scholar with a particular passion for teaching and education. He currently holds the HR Taylor Trust Scholarship in Conducting at the Royal College of Music where he studies with Peter Stark and Howard Williams. During his time at the RCM Mark will assist Vladimir Jurowski, Bernard Haitink and enjoy frequent collaborations with the RCM Philharmonic, RCM Symphony and Croydon Youth Symphony. This season has also seen him conduct the Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra, Petersfield Orchestra and RCM Junior Department Symphony Orchestra.

As an undergraduate Mark read Music at Clare College Cambridge, graduating with the Lester Brough and Royaltan-Kisch prizes. As a conducting scholar, he conducted all the university's major ensembles as well as assisting Sir Roger Norrington, David Hill and Dmitry Sitkovetsky. Mark has continued to lead student ensembles at St. Andrews, Yale and Wesleyan universities and has been invited twice to join the conducting program at the Atlantic Music Festival in Maine, studying with David Amado and Jonathan Schiffman. He has conducted all over America and Europe and was selected recently as a semi-finalist at the ACDA conducting competition in Salt Lake City and invited for a residency at the Hochschule der Kunste in Zurich.

Mark was previously the Hugh Porter Scholarship in conducting at the Yale School of Music where he studied orchestral conducting with Shinik Hahm and choral conducting with David Hill. He was a fellow at Saybrook College where he directed the College Orchestra in seasons including an annual education concert for 1,500 school children from deprived neighborhoods across the New Haven area. He was Music Director for the choir at the University Church at Battell Chapel, assistant conductor of the Yale Camerata and directed his own chamber choir and orchestra. As a singer with the Yale Schola Cantorum he has toured America, Europe and Asia, recorded extensively for Harmonia Mundi and collaborated with the New York Philharmonic, Bach Collegium Japan and Julliard<sup>415</sup>.

This summer Mark will work as assistant conductor at the Cheltenham Festival with Martin Andre and West Green House Opera with Tim Murray.