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Robert C. Babb

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Maestro Robert C. Babb has spent the past 25 years changing the cultural landscape of Southern New Hampshire. As cofounder and conductor of the Granite State Symphony Orchestra, Maestro Babb has in twelve short years created the fastest growing orchestra in New Hampshire. A balanced budget and sold out performances are the hallmark of the GSSO.

Innovative programming that is interesting yet challenging to the musicians and entertaining to the audience has become an integral part of the GSSO's success. Whether it's finding little known gems of the masters or masterpieces from the little known composers, Mr. Babb's concerts are creatively interesting and musically exciting. His ability to communicate from the podium has led to thrilled audiences and venues filled to capacity.

As conductor of the Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Babb started his 27th season with a performance at the famous Hatch Shell on the Esplanade in Boston. The concert was hailed as one of the best of the summer by WCRB host, Ray Brown.

Maestro Babb also founded the Palace Festival Orchestra, the resident orchestra at the historic Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH. Having re-orchestrated the entire Nutcracker Ballet for 27 instruments, Mr. Babb conducts a highly successful series of performances each season.

Mr. Babb was asked to save the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra (NHPO), New Hampshire's premier community orchestra, from extinction. Within two seasons of his tenure as conductor the NHPO performed at the Riverfest for twenty three thousand people and the following year became the first and only New Hampshire orchestra to perform live on television. In his fifth and final season with the NHPO Maestro Babb conducted a complete and memorable performance of the "Planets".

Maestro Babb's ventures into corporate events lead to a show stopping opening with the Orlando Symphony Orchestra at a Unisys worldwide partners meeting. During a later conversation the new CEO stated the orchestral performance helped create the primary focus for the important three day meeting.

Mr. Babb studied extensively with Leon Barzin, a friend and student of the great Arturo Toscanini, at the New England Conservatory in Boston, the National Orchestra Association in New York, and in Paris; the emphasis was on stick technique. Maestro Babb's ability to communicate with his musicians and create remarkable musical results on a short rehearsal schedule is a direct result of that collaboration.



CRITICAL ACCLAIM

- **January 30, 2003. Hippo Press, Jeff Rapsis.**

“It’s a rare conductor who can engage an audience as much as his performers in bringing to life music written for a symphony orchestra. Robert C. Babb, music director of the Granite State Symphony Orchestra, is one of those gifted people, and last Saturday’s winter concert in Concord gave him a chance to display both sides of his talent.”

“Few conductors communicate as effectively with words as they do with the baton. But Babb found just the right balance.”

- **October 14, 2004. Hippo Press, Jeff Rapsis.**

“For the balance of the program, conductor Robert C. Babb led a performance of the Brahms Symphony No. 2 that was remarkable for its clarity, intensity and sunny spirit.”

“That was true in the GSSO performance of the Brahms No. 1 last year, and it happened again with No. 2. Babb brought out detail and inner voices that I’d never heard before in this familiar work.”

- **November 11, 2004. Hippo Press, Jeff Rapsis.**

“The Barber (Adagio for Strings), a powerful work, is one of those do-or-die pieces where it’s all up to the strings. Under Babb, the players came through with a soulful and moving rendition. The famous climax was tackled with gusto and raw emotion, turning the score into one long, cathartic, passionate outpouring.”

“At this concert. . .strings were consistently solid, displaying a polish that’s rare in any ensemble of any size. It made a good program that much better, and it’s no surprise that the GSSO is close to selling out its recent concerts.”

“On the podium, Babb was at his best, introducing each work with comments that struck the right balance between substance and brevity. He conducted with clarity and energy, allowing the personality of each work to come through.”

- **March 31, 2005. Hippo Press, Jeff Rapsis.**

“But Babb (a Nashua resident) and the musicians of the Granite State Symphony Orchestra thwarted any comedians with a rendition (Beethoven’s “Pastoral Symphony) that was a delight from start to finish—a performance that was fresh, energetic, supple, and, well, springy.”

“Under Babb, Beethoven’s familiar tribute to nature was made new again, as the musicians made brooks babble, birds sing, and downpours gush. At the opening of the final movement. . . the clouds all but parted so the sun could shine through.”

- **March 16, 2006. Hippo Press, Jeff Rapsis.**

“Under the direction of Robert C. Babb, the GSSO ensemble plumbed the depths of one of Mozart’s most beguiling scores with thoroughness, grace, and a wonderful sense of proportion.”



CURRICULUM VITAE

Orchestras:

- 1994 to Present Granite State Symphony Orchestra
- 2000 to Present Palace Festival Orchestra
- 1979 to Present Southeastern Philharmonic Orchestra
- 1987 to 1991 New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra
- 1991 to 1995 Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra

Guest Appearances:

- 1975 Brockport Bicentennial Chamber Orchestra
- 1981 Indian Hill Symphony Orchestra
- 2004 Orlando Symphony Orchestra

Corporate Event:

- 2004 Unisys Corporation

Youth Ensembles:

- 1999 New Hampshire All State Orchestra
- 1998 Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Orchestra
- 1997 to 2001 SYMS at the University of New Hampshire
- 1993 to 1995 New England Summer Arts Program
- 1987 to 1996 Nashua All City Choral Festival

Robert C. Babb

Choral:

1998 Souhegan Valley Chorus

1981 to 1988 Chelmsford Choral Society

Education:

1975 New England Conservatory of Music, MM in Conducting

1968 Mansfield University, BA in Music Education

Additional Study:

1978 Private conducting with Leon Barzin, France

1975 National Orchestra Association, New York

1974 to 1975 Wind ensemble conducting with Frank Battisti

1973 to 1975 Jazz piano styles with Jaki Byard

1973 Orchestra management with the Boston Symphony Orchestra

1971 to 1973 Private conducting with Atillio Poto at the Boston Conservatory

Collegiate Affiliations:

1975 to 1978 Rutgers University, Newark College of Arts and Sciences

1981 to 1985 Rivier College

1985 to 1990 Daniel Webster College

Other:

1970 to 1973 18th US Army Band