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Edward Benyas- BIOGRAPHY

Edward Benyas is Music Director of the **Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra**, Music Director Designate of the **Chicago Chamber Orchestra**, with which he made his European conducting debut, and founder and Artistic Director of the **Southern Illinois Music Festival**, which presents over 40 concerts in a three-week period. Mr. Benyas has also served as Music Director of the **Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra, the North Shore Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Fantastique! and the Southern Illinois Youth Orchestra**. He appeared on national television leading a chorus and orchestra comprised of musicians from throughout Illinois during funeral services for the late Senator Paul Simon. Under his leadership, the Southern Illinois Symphony was named Community Volunteer Orchestra of the Year in Illinois. In 2005, he was named **Conductor of the Year** by the Illinois Council of Orchestras.

A student of Ray Still, Robert Morgan and Victor Yampolsky, Mr. Benyas holds a graduate degree in Orchestral Conducting and Oboe Performance from Northwestern University, as well as Bachelor and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Michigan. He also studied at the Pierre Monteux School for Conductors under the late Charles Bruck, and at the International Workshop for Opera Conductors with the late Georg Tintner.

Mr. Benyas has guest-conducted orchestras in **California, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Georgia, Louisiana, Virginia, Maine, North Dakota, Washington, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic**. Important past conducting engagements include conducting *La Bohème* at the **Silesian State Opera**, guest conducting the **New Symphony Orchestra of Sofia, Bulgaria**, the Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra and Apprentice Artists, the Illinois Chamber Symphony, the Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and directing the **Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestra** before the President and an audience of 10,000. Of his appearance with the Illinois Chamber Symphony, the Copley Chicago Newspaper wrote "**Edward Benyas' clear directions from the podium helped create a night of true magic**". A California reviewer wrote "**Maestro Benyas captured every subtle nuance and capitalized upon every beautiful moment in the symphony while maintaining balance and precision. He simply swept the audience away with a beautiful presentation of this piece**".

In 1998, Mr. Benyas helped establish the **Sofia-Mt. Vitosha International Conducting Institute**, where he coached rising young conductors from the United States, South America and Europe. Since 1998, Mr. Benyas has led the **Chicago Chamber Orchestra** on numerous tours of the Midwest, including performances at historic opera houses in Southern Illinois and Northern Michigan. His conducting repertoire includes nearly 400 works, including a dozen world premieres and over a dozen complete operas and ballets.

Mr. Benyas also enjoys an active career as an oboe and English horn player, having performed with the **Chicago Symphony under Daniel Barenboim, the Lyric Opera under Zubin Mehta**, the Milwaukee and Grant Park Symphonies, the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, at the Spoleto, Banff and Carmel Bach summer music festivals, as Principal Oboe for Andrea Bocelli's National Tour, as founder/director of The Oak Street Winds and as Principal Oboist of the Des Moines Metro Opera. The late Robert Marsh of the Chicago Sun-Times described his "**beautiful tone and precise intonation**" during the famous oboe solo in the Brahms Violin Concerto. His 2002 appearance as conductor and oboe soloist with **Rachel Barton and the Chicago Chamber Orchestra** was broadcast on WSIU public television, and his appearance with **The Oak Street Winds** on the Dame Myra Hess Recital Series was broadcast live nationally on 300 affiliate radio stations. Mr. Benyas serves on the Boards of Directors of the **WSIU Friends Board, and the SISO Patrons Committee**. In 2007, he received the "**Keeping the Arts in Business**" Award from the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the state bar of Illinois and practiced law for five years in Chicago before pursuing music full-time.

Edward Benyas- Curriculum Vitae

Music Director Positions

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Artistic Director, Southern Illinois Music Festival (www.SIFest.com), 2005-Present

Professor of Oboe and Director of Orchestras, 1994-Present

Music Director, Southern Illinois Symphony Orchestras (2000-2001 Orchestra of the Year)

Chicago Chamber Orchestra

Associate Conductor, 1992-Present; Music Director Designate

Skokie Valley Symphony

Music Director, 2001-2002

Principal Professional Guest Conducting Positions

Winter Opera St. Louis: 2010, 2011

Des Moines Metro Opera: 1999-2001, 2003

Illinois Chamber Symphony: 2000

New Symphony Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria): Guest Conductor and Clinician, 1998

Other orchestras in California, Georgia, Louisiana and North Dakota, 2006-Present

Principal Work as Oboist

Lyric Opera of Chicago: Oboe for Wagner Ring Cycle (Zubin Mehta, Conductor), 1996

Chicago Symphony Orchestra: Oboe and English horn for subscription concerts, East coast and European tour (Daniel Barenboim, Conductor), 1992

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra: Oboe/English horn for subscription concerts, 1993-1995

Carmel Bach Festival (Carmel, California): Oboe, Oboe d'amore, English horn soloist, 1991-1994

Des Moines Metro Opera: Principal Oboe, 1997-2002; Orchestra Manager, 1999-2002

Non-Music

Ross & Hardies and Hefter & Radke (Chicago, Illinois): Commercial litigation attorney, 1987-1992

EDUCATION

Degrees

Master of Music June, 1994 (Concentrating in Orchestral Conducting and Oboe Performance) Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois)

Juris Doctor May, 1987 University of Michigan Law School (Ann Arbor, Michigan)

Bachelor of Arts with High Honors May, 1984 (Concentrating in Political Science and Music) University of Michigan

Additional Study

International Conducting Workshop with Silesian State Opera and Chorus Opava, Czech Republic: Summer, 1996

Pierre Monteux School for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians Hancock, Maine: Summer, 1995

Principal Teachers

Conducting: Victor Yampolsky, Charles Bruck, Georg Tintner
Oboe: Ray Still, Robert Morgan, Maurice Bourgue

Edward Benyas-Critical Acclaim

As Conductor

He could easily win a position as oboist with a professional orchestra, but he is even more suited to being a conductor.

Ray Still, long time Principal Oboist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Edward Benyas' clear directions from the podium helped create a night of true magic.

Copley Chicago Newspapers

Maestro Benyas captured every subtle nuance and capitalized upon every beautiful moment in the symphony while maintaining balance and precision. He simply swept the audience away with a beautiful presentation of this piece.

Auburn (California) Journal

As Oboist

I wish [the violin soloist in the Brahms concerto] had the beautiful tone and precise intonation of the solo oboe in the adagio movement.

Robert Marsh, Chicago Sun-Times

A candidate for a prestigious seat in the woodwind section of a world-renowned orchestra.

Michael Morgan, Music Director, Oakland Symphony Orchestra

Oboist Edward Benyas was highly impressive in his solo rendition of *Là ci darem la mano* [in the Chicago Chamber Orchestra's presentation of a wind transcription of *Don Giovanni*].... There were brilliant solos by oboist Edward Benyas in the fifth movement (Romanze) and sixth movement (Theme and Variations) [of Mozart's Gran Partita Serenade for winds].

Uwe Hagelgans, Osteroder (Germany) Kreisanzeiger

The soaring solos [in Berlioz' Romeo et Juliette] were wonderfully effective.

David Maves, The Evening Post (Charleston, S.C.)

Beautiful solos coming from. . . oboist Edward Benyas [in Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 1].... All of the double reeds [in Bach's Hunting Cantata, BWV 208], including oboist Edward Benyas, sounded very good indeed.

Jeff Hudson, Monterey (California) Herald

Outstanding contributor to the ensemble [as Principal Oboe for Handel's Acis and Galatea].

Nathalie Plotkin, Carmel (California) Pine Cone

Edward Benyas' English horn work in the slow movement of the Franck [D Minor Symphony, performed by the Ann Arbor Symphony was] especially noteworthy."

Jim Leonard, Ann Arbor News

Edward Benyas-Repertoire

Baroque

Bach

Brandenburg Concerti
Major Concerti for Oboe, Violin, Piano

Stokowski Arrangements

Handel

Royal Fireworks and Water Music Suites
Queen of Sheba Entrance
Ombra mai fu from *Xerxes*

Vivaldi

Four Seasons
Concerti for Oboe, Bassoon, Violin, Cello, Trumpet

Other works by Albinoni, Gluck, Monn, Pachelbel, Rousseau, Telemann

Classical

Haydn

Symphonies 1, 6, 22, 39, 45, 48, 49, 51, 88, 94, 96, 100, 101, 104
Concerti for Trumpet and Cello

Mozart

Symphonies 1, 3, 27, 35, 38-41; Piano Concerti 8-12, 20, 21, 23
Violin Concerti 4, 5
Concertone
Concerti for Clarinet, Bassoon and Horn
Exsultate Jubilate
Sinfonie Concertante for strings and winds
Major Serenades and Divertimenti
Overtures to *Marriage of Figaro*, *Magic Flute*, *Impresario*, *Il Re Pastore*

Beethoven

Symphonies 1-9
Egmont, Coriolan, Fidelio, Leonore Overtures
Piano Concerti 2-5, Triple Concerto; Violin Concerto and Romance

Other works by JC Bach, Michael Haydn, Hoffmeister, Hummel and Krommer

Romantic

Brahms

Symphonies 1-4
Concerti for Violin, Piano No. 1
Double Concerto
Haydn Variations
Academic Festival Overture

Bizet

Carmen Suites
Jeux d'Enfants
Symphony in C

Berlioz

Damnation of Faust Excerpts
Harold in Italy
Roman Carnival Overture
La Marseillaise

Borodin

Symphony No. 2
Polevetsian Dances

Bruch

1st Violin Concerto
Scottish Fantasy
Kol Nidre
Romance for Viola

Dvorak

Symphonies 7-9
Slavonic Dances 1, 3, 4, 8
Serenades for Strings and Winds
Cello Concerto
Carnival Overture
Legends
Czech Suite

Fauré

Pavane
Elegy for Cello

Franck

Symphony in D Minor

Grieg

Piano Concerto
Peer Gynt and Holberg Suites

Liszt

2nd Piano Concerto
2nd Hungarian Rhapsody
Les Préludes

MacDowell

2nd Piano Concerto

Mendelssohn

Symphonies 3-5
Fingal's Cave Overture
Violin Concerto
Double Concerto
Concert Piece for Clarinets

Rachmaninoff

2nd Symphony
Piano Concerti 1-3
Paganini Rhapsody

Rimsky-Korsakov.

Capriccio Espagnol
Scheherazade

Rossini

Overtures to Barber
Semiramide
La Gazza Ladra
Scala di Seta
Italiani in Algeri
William Tell
Voyage to Rheims
Turk in Italy
Cambiale di Matrimonio
Variations for Clarinet
La Danza

Saint-Saëns

Organ Symphony
Carnival of the Animals
2nd Piano Concerto
Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso

Schubert

Symphonies 4, 5, 6, Unfinished
Rosamunde Overture and Incidental Music
Ave Maria

Schumann

Symphonies 1 and 2
Piano Concerto
Konzerstück for 4 Horns
Genoveva Overture

Smetana

Moldau
Dance of the Comedians
Bartered Bride Overture

J. Strauss

Fledermaus Overture
Voices of Spring

R. Strauss

Till Eulenspiegel
Four Last Songs
Duet Concertino
"Happy Workshop"

Tchaikovsky

Symphonies 2, 4, 5, 6
Suite No. 4
1812 Overture
March Slav
Capriccio Italien
Romeo and Juliet
1st Piano Concerto
Violin Concerto
Rococo Variations

Verdi

Overtures to Forza del Destino and Nabucco
Triumphal March and Chorus from Aida

Wagner

Prelude ad Lovedeath
Siegfried Idyll
Ride of the Valkyries

Weber

1st Clarinet Concerto
Overture to Oberon

Other works by Bassi, Boieldieu, Borne, Chadwick, Chaminade, Chausson,
Glazounov, Glinka, Offenbach, Sarasate, Spohr, Suppé

Modern Era

Adams

Tromba Lontana

Barber

Piano Concerto

Knoxville: Summer of 1915

Bernstein

West Side Story Symphonic Dances

On the Town Dances

Candide Overture

Bloch

In Memoriam

Cast.-Tedesco

Guitar Concerto

Julius Chajes

Cello Concerto

Israeli Melodies

Copland

Appalachian Spring

Rodeo Dances

Tender Land Suite

Lincoln Portrait

Quiet City

Outdoor Overture

Clarinet Concerto

Latin American Sketches

Jubilee Variation

Fanfare for the Common Man

Down a Country Lane

Billy the Kid excerpts

Old American Songs

Henry Cowell

Percussion Concerto

Richard Danielpour

Toward the Splendid City

Debussy

La Mer
Afternoon of a Faun
Nocturnes
Premiere Rhapsodie
Clair de lune

Francaix

Hommage à l'ami Papageno

Gershwin

American in Paris
Rhapsody in Blue
Lullaby
Porgy and Bess Symphonic Portrait

Grofé

Grand Canyon Suite

Hindemith

Schwanendreher

Ives/Schuman

Variations on "America"

Alexander Krein

Three Hebrew Sketches

Robert Kurka

Good Soldier Schweik

Lowell Liebermann

Piccolo Concerto

Lutoslawski

Dance Preludes

Martinu

Thunderbolt P-47
Sinfonia Concertante
Memorial to Lidice
Nonet

Nielsen

Clarinet Concerto

Burrill Phillips

McGuffey's Readers Suite
Concert Piece for Bassoon

Poulenc

Two Piano Concerto
Movements Perpetuels

Prokofiev

Classical Symphony
1st Violin Concerto
2nd Piano Concerto
Overture on Hebrew Themes

Ravel

Bolero

Rodrigo

Concierto de Aranjuez

Shostakovich

5th Symphony
1st Cello Concerto
Festive Overture

Sibelius

Symphonies 1, 5
Violin Concerto
Finlandia
Karelia Suite
Valse Triste

Jim Stephenson

American Fanfare
Trumpet Concerto
Double Concerto
Legend of Sleepy Hollow

William Grant Still

Afro-American Symphony
Wood Notes

Stravinsky

L'histoire du Soldat
Firebird Suite
Octet

Joan Tower

Petrouchskates

Villa-Lobos

Guitar Concerto
Bachianis Brasileiras No. 5

Walton
Façade

Dag Wiren
Serenade for Strings

John Williams
Cowboys Overture
Schindler's List
Music from Star Wars, Raiders, Harry Potter

Other works by Chen Gang, Jay Greenberg, Adolphus Hailstork, tálib-rasúl hakim, Fareed Haque, William Hayes, Leos Janacek, Harold Laudenslager, Ami Maayani, James Mack, Vazgen Muradian, Bill Russo, Daniel Tucker, Robert Ian Winstin and Chen Yi

American/World Premieres

Zamir Bavel
David and the Ark

Joseph Breznikar
Cascade

Glen Daum
Sentinels of Freedom

Scott Hines
Shoah

Ilja Hurnik
Oboe Concerto

Robert Kritz
Saxophone Concerto

Paul McIntyre
Requiescant in pace

Joseph Renzetti
Waltz

Frank Stemper
Symphonia Alesia
On ferrai quelque choses

Jim Stephenson
Celebration Overture
Remembering our Fathers

Michael Thomas
Carbondale Celebration

Andrew Lowe Watson
Elegy for the Fallen

Complete Opera, Oratorio and Ballet

Adam
Giselle

Bernstein
Candide

Bizet/Constant
Tragedy of Carmen

Delibes
Coppélia

Donizetti
Elixir of Love

Gounod
Romeo and Juliet

Handel
Messiah

Haydn
Creation

Humperdinck
Hansel and Gretel

Mascagni
Cavalleria Rusticana

Mozart
Così fan tutte
Marriage of Figaro
Magic Flute

Prokofiev
Romeo and Juliet

Puccini*La Bohème**Madama Butterfly**Suor Angelica**Gianni Schicchi**La Rondine***Rossini***Barber of Seville***Stravinsky***Petrouchka**Firebird***Sullivan***Trial by Jury***Tchaikovsky***Nutcracker**Sleeping Beauty**Swan Lake***Verdi***La Traviata*

Excerpts by Charpentier, Cilea, Delibes, Donizetti, Giordano, Gounod, Leoncavallo; Mozart, Offenbach, Ponchielli, Puccini, Rossini, Saint-Saëns, Tchaikovsky, Verdi and Wagner

Edward Benyas- References

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