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Bruce Lauffer

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Maestro Lauffer is in his fifth season as Music Director and Conductor of the McKeesport Symphony Orchestra. Under his dynamic leadership, The MSO has grown into a vibrant musical ensemble. Both, audience attendance has increased and revenues are up. This past season, the MSO was recorded and broadcast on WQED-FM (Pittsburgh) as part of their series, "Performances in Pittsburgh".

In addition to his responsibilities with the MSO, Maestro Lauffer is the conductor of the Latshaw Pops Orchestra. For the past five years, Maestro Lauffer has conducted tours throughout the Eastern United States (Boston, Hartford, Albany, Geneva, Buffalo, Erie, Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Cincinnati, Indiana, Wheeling, Pittsburgh, Lancaster, Baltimore, and Atlantic City), performing for tens of thousands of patrons in Latshaw Production's outstanding productions; "As Time Goes By", "Puttin' On The Ritz", "American Journey", "Seppin' Out on Broadway", and The Christmas Spectacular". Maestro Lauffer will be conducting additional shows with the Latshaw Pops Orchestra in 2010 - "The Crooners & Their Music" and "Oktoberfest".

This October, Maestro Lauffer was invited to guest conduct the River City Brass Band, considered one of the country's finest brass bands. The concert was enthusiastically received by both the audience and the musicians performing in the RCBB. This past year, Maestro Lauffer was invited to be the conductor for all symphonic pop concerts with "Jimmy Beaumont and The Skyliners". Currently, he is involved in working with Jace Vek (2 Time - Emmy Award winning composer and a virtuoso pianist), on a recording project of Mr. Vek's second CD with solo piano and orchestra.

Maestro Lauffer earned his Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from West Virginia University where he studied conducting with Don Wilcox, Donald Portnoy, and Jerry Goldsmith. He received his Master of Music Degree in 1987 from Baylor University. While at Baylor University, Mr. Lauffer studied conducting with Michael Haithcock and Gary Sousa and composition with Richard Willis. Private study in conducting has been with the internationally renowned master teacher Elizabeth A. H. Green; Maestro Louis Lane (former Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra and former Music Director of the Dallas Symphony), and Maestro Larry Rachleff (Music Director of The Rhode Island Philharmonic). In May of 2007, Mr. Lauffer was one of ten conductors in the country invited to serve as a conducting intern with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Jorge Mester. Additional studies in conducting have been with Frederick Fennell, Carl Topilow, H. Robert Reynolds, Craig Kirchoff, Eugene Corporan, Alan McMurray, and William Wakefield.

Maestro Lauffer was the Director of Music and Dean of Arts for the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School and the Music Director and Conductor of the Beaver Valley Philharmonic from 2006-2009. In December 2006 and 2007, the BVP's holiday concert was broadcast live on KDKA radio to over 33 states in the US and half of Canada. He has served as Music Director of The Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra (fourteen seasons), the Mon-Valley Youth Orchestra, and the North Pittsburgh Civic Symphony. He has been a popular Guest Conductor with The Edgewood Symphony Orchestra and the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra.

Maintaining a very active conducting schedule, both professionally and educationally, Maestro Lauffer is in demand as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout the country. He is a frequent guest on university and college campuses, conducting and lecturing. Maestro Lauffer has won praise from such composers as David Stock, Karel Husa, Warren Benson, Michael Moricz, Todd Goodman, Neil DePonte, Richard Willis, Ruth Meyer Sacks, Jace Vek, Christopher Fraley and David Williams for his interpretative performances of their compositions. Mr. Lauffer is very active in commissioning new compositions for orchestra and winds. To date, he has conducted the world premier of 23 compositions, which he commissioned for orchestra and band.

Mr. Lauffer has taught on the faculties at Indiana State University and at Washington and Jefferson College. In addition to his university experience, Mr. Lauffer has taught for over twenty years in public education. During which time, his ensembles have received state and national recognition for their excellence.

Mr. Lauffer is a Master Mason in the Grand Lodge of F.& A.M. of Pennsylvania, Jeannette Lodge No. 750. Mr. Lauffer resides in Beaver County, Pennsylvania with his wife, Sharon, and children Benjamin, Brittany, and Gregory, and Robert.

Critical Acclaim

"It has been a very pleasant and satisfying collaboration. Bruce had a thorough knowledge of the scores we were performing and treated his orchestra musicians with respect. Performances went smoothly and were as rehearsed, with no surprises mid-concert. I have worked with many 'top' conductors in performances with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, and Maestro Lauffer has matched or exceeded their accompanying ability. I look forward to working with Maestro Lauffer in the future, with no misgivings. He is quite devoted to conducting and has an excellent reputation in the Pittsburgh area. He obviously enjoys developing orchestras to their fullest potential. I personally intend to use my own contacts within China to book concerts in the future with Mr. Lauffer. I have that trust in his musical ability." ----- **Adam Liu, Assistant Principal Cello - Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (February 2008)**

[Bruce Lauffer], "is an extremely capable orchestra conductor and also a very personable and knowledgeable musician. He has wide experience in all styles of music ranging from the "classics" to "pop" and "big band swing." It is a pleasure working with Maestro Lauffer and his orchestra - You make the holidays for me and others!" ----- **Joe Negri, world renowned guitarist / recording artist (December 2007)**

"...working with Bruce Lauffer this past December at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center was a wonderful collaborative effort. Mr. Lauffer's understanding of my orchestral book proved his insightful knowledge of all music genres. He is a consummate professional with never-ending musical integrity. His positive rapport with me, my trio and all orchestra members brought to the stage a most refreshing and uplifting work climate -something we all know translates so positively to the audience." ----- **Joe Augustine, Steinway Artist, national recording artist and concert performer, jazz pianist (January 2007)**

"I have collaborated with a great many conductors, including Maestro Leonard Bernstein. Working with Mr. Lauffer has been an absolutely wonderful experience for me. I was struck not only by his great conducting ability and technique, but also by his knowledge of the score, and his support and flexibility, which made rehearsing and performing with him so easy. Above all, he possesses a very warm, friendly, generous personality, which makes him a great colleague." ----- **Eugene Alcalay, DMA, Fulbright Scholar, Steinway Artist (March 2006)**

"Mr. Lauffer is a pleasure to work with. He is organized, dedicated, and always carries a strong commitment to any organization that has been fortunate enough to employ him. His musical talent and commitment make him an excellent leader with the ability to work with a diverse group of musicians and to unite those musicians into one orchestra. Bruce also considers his market. He has the ability to capture the audience with his programming. He is equally comfortable with classical, jazz and pops - and brings each performance to the highest level!" ----- **Patty Neeper, Vice-President - Steinway Piano Division (June 2008)**

"Bruce, I was pleased with the performance of my two pieces. I thought Music for Prague and Apothesis of This Earth went extremely well. The ensemble was well prepared and the result was tremendous. You are a wonderful musician and conductor, and I thank you for playing my music." ----- **Karel Husa, Pulitzer Winning Composer (February 1995)**

"Jace Vek's second release is a stunning collection of fully orchestrated original compositions with himself playing the piano in concert with the Royal Sylvan Philharmonic, conducted by Maestro Bruce Lauffer.....This is one of the rare CDs that I can listen to over and over and still think, "Wow!".....Sure to be on my "10" Best Albums" of the year.....Very highly recommended! ----- [Kathy Parsons - CD Reviews](#) (March 2005)

Curriculum Vitae

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

McKeesport Symphony Orchestra; McKeesport, PA

Music Director/Conductor, October 2005 – Present

- in my five years the orchestra has gone from a negative balance of \$28,000 in debt to a yearly balanced budget, and a savings account balance of \$75,000 and, successfully raised funds for a matching grant of \$100,000 for the 2007-2008 year. Audience attendance has increased approximately 150% regular subscription concerts – summer park concert (August 2008) performed for over 6,000 patrons
- oversee the MSO Youth Orchestra (Conductor - first season, fall 2006)
- responsible for the creation of composer-in-residence position (fall 2006)
- world premier, May 2007 “Concerto for Piccolo and Orchestra” by Todd Goodman (Torin Olson, soloist)
- world premier, May 2008 “Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra” by Todd Goodman (Curtis Johnson, soloist)
- recorded/broadcast on WQED-FM (Pittsburgh) “Performance in Pittsburgh”

Latshaw Pops Orchestra; Monroeville, PA

Conductor, Fall 2005 – Present

- conducted five tours per year throughout the Eastern and Mid-Atlantic United States
- commissioned new arrangements and compositions / one cd release

Royal Sylvan Philharmonic; Pittsburgh, PA

Conductor, Fall 2001 - Present

- conducting the world premiers of six commissions by Emmy Award composer/pianist, Jace Vek
- recording project Spring 2003 of the music of composer Jace Vek (CD Release-April 2005; peaked at #5 in the world new age/neoclassical radio (#1 in the Netherlands and Japan)
- recording project Fall of 2004 of the music of composer Delsey McKay
- conducted Eastern US tour with international singer, comedian, & pianist, Cahal Dunne, March 2004
- recorded/broadcast by WQED-FM – “Performances in Pittsburgh”
- recording project/national tour - music of Emmy Award composer, Jace Vek, Spring 2010

Guest Conductor/Previous Conducting Positions

River City Brass Band (Guest Conductor: 2009)

Beaver Valley Philharmonic (Music Director: 2006-2009)

-two performances broadcast live on KDKA Radio (33 states & half of Canada) December: 2006, 2007

Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra (Music Director: 1995-2007)

North Pittsburgh Philharmonic (Music Director: 1991-1996)

Edgewood Symphony Orchestra (Guest Conductor: 1994-2005)

Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra (Guest Conductor: 1999-2004)

Numerous University/College and HS Honors Ensembles/Festivals throughout the US (specific list available 1984-present)

Conducting Masterclasses and Private Study

Elizabeth A.H. Green

Jorge Mester

Louis Lane

Larry Rachleff

Carl Topilow

Don Portnoy

Frederick Fennell

Don Wilcox

H. Robert Reynolds

Michael Haithcodk

Eugene Corporan

Alan McMurray

Jerry Goldsmith

Gary Sousa

William Wakefield

Professional Teaching Experience

Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center; Midland, PA (Dean of Arts/Director of Music) (2006-2009)

Indiana State University; Terre Haute, IN (1984-1987)

Washington & Jefferson College; Washington, PA (1992)

Public Schools (1987-2006)

Commissions

conducted the world premiers of 23 compositions, which I commissioned for orchestra and/or band (1984 – present)

Repertoire

(EXTREMELY ABBREVIATED LISTING)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Johann Sebastian Bach
The Brandenburg Concerti
The Orchestral Suites
Double Concerto in d minor | George Gershwin
An American in Paris
Concerto in F
Lullaby for Strings
Porgy and Bess Selections
Rhapsody in Blue | Camille Saint-Saens
Cello Concerto No. 1
Dance Macabre
Piano Concerto No. 2
Symphony No. 3 "Organ" |
| Samuel Barber
Adagio for Strings
School for Scandal Overture | Georg Frideric Handel
The Messiah
Royal Fireworks Music
Water Music | Dmitri Shostakovich
Festive Overture
Symphonies Nos. 1, 5 |
| Ludwig van Beethoven
The Concerti
The Symphonies
The Overtures
Fantasia for Piano, Chorus, and Orch | Franz Joseph Haydn
Concerto for Cello (nos. 1, 2)
Concerto for Trumpet
Symphonies (82,87,88,92,94,
100,101,103,104) | Jean Sibelius
Finlandia
Symphony No. 2
Valse Triste |
| Hector Berlioz
Beatrice and Benedict Overture
Roman Carnival Overture | Paul Hindemith
Symphonic Metamorphosis | David Stock
Fast Break
Knockout!
The Winds of Summer |
| Johannes Brahms
The Serenades
The Overtures
The Symphonies
Variations on a Theme by Haydn
Hungarian Dances | Gustav Holst
St. Paul's Suite
The Planets | Igor Stravinsky
Firebird Suite
Octet
Pulcinella Suite
Symphony of Wind Instrs
Symphony in C |
| Frederic Chopin
Andante Spianato / Grand Polonaise Brillante
Piano Concerto No. 2 | Alan Hovhaness
Symphony No. 2 | Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Capriccio Italien
Piano Concerto No. 1
Serenade for Strings
The Overtures
The Symphonies
Variations on Rococo Theme |
| Aaron Copland
A Lincoln Portrait
An Outdoor Overture
Appalachian Spring
Billy The Kid (suite)
El Salon Mexico
Fanfare For The Common Man
Four Dance Episodes from "Rodeo"
Old American Songs (sets 1 and 2)
Quiet City
Red Pony (suite) | Karel Husa
Concerto for Alto Sax
Concerto for Trumpet
Concerto for Wind Orchestra
Four Little Pieces for String Orch
Fresque for Orch
Music for Prague 1968 | Antonio Vivaldi
Gloria
Many of the Conerto Grossi
The Four Seasons |
| John Corigliano
Promenade Overture | Felix Mendelssohn
Concerto for Piano and Orch
Concerto for Violin and Orch
The Overtures
The Symphonies | Richard Wagner
The Overtures
Siegfried Idyll |
| Claude Debussy
Premier Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orch | Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Concerto for Flute No. 1
Concerto for Violin No. 4
Piano Concerti (nos. 12, 21, 23, 27)
Requiem
The Symphonies (35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41)
The Wind Serenades/Divertimenti | |
| David Diamond
Music for Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" | Modest Mussorgsky
Night On Bald Mountain
Pictures At An Exhibition | *Add to this a large number of additional works, educational pieces, pops works, 23 world premiers, and Broadway/film arrangements. |
| Cornelius Dopper
Ciaconna Gotica
Symphony No. 7 "Zuiderzee" | Sergei Prokofiev
Lieutenant Kije Suite
Peter and The Wolf
Symphonie Classique | |
| Paul Dukas
Fanfare from "La Peri"
The Sorcerer's Apprentice | Sergei Rachmaninoff
Piano Concerto No. 2
Symphonies No. 1, 2, and 3 | |
| Antonin Dvorak
Carnival Overture
Golden Spinning Wheel
Overture to the Opera "The Devil and Kate"
Slavonic Dances
The Serenades
The Symphonies | Ottorino Respighi
The Fountains of Rome
The Pines of Rome | |
| Gabriel Faure
Pavane
Requiem | Gioacchino Rossini
The Overtures | |
| | John Rutter
Requiem | |

References

Adam Liu, assistant principal cellist, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, 2441 Southvue Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15241, (412) 478-7597, aczliu@msn.com

Joe Negri, world renowned guitarist / recording artist, 1747 Borland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15243, (412) 279-1233, jnegri@andrew.cmu.edu

Joe Augustine, steinway artist / recording artist, 591 Avalon Drive S.E., Warren, OH 44484, (330) 856-5166, joe@joeaugustine.com

Eugene Alcalay, steinway artist, 940 St. James Circle, Platteville, Wisconsin 53818, (608) 348-8285, ecalcalay@yahoo.com

Jace Vek, 2 time emmy award winning composer / recording artist, c/o Emilio Corbachionne, 327 Grandview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15211, (412) 235-7904, jace@jacevek.com

Patty Neeper, vice-president, Trombino Piano Gallerie, 942 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, (412) 780-5275, pneeper@trombino.com

Donna Groom, female lead vocalist, "Jimmy Beaumont and The Skyliners", 605 Friendship Road, Darlington, PA 16115, (724) 827-2217, donn113@comcast.net

Gary Latshaw, president, Latshaw Productions, PO Box 102, Monroeville, PA 15146, (724) 853-4050, latshawproductions@comcast.net

Harry Coleman, concert pianist, 1304 Great Oak Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15220, (412) 276-3556, lalacoleman1@verizon.net

Craig Johnson, president, Board of Directors, McKeesport Symphony Orchestra, 3336 Longbow Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, (412) 720-3158, MckeesportPops@aol.com

Mark Wasler, president, World Class Entertainment, 365 Derrick Avenue, Uniontown, PA 15401, (724) 323-2103, Kingfish@royal.net