



# Leon Burke

**Jack Price**

*Founding Partner / Managing Director*

**Marc Parella**

*Partner / Director of Operations*

---

**Mailing Address:**

520 Geary Street Suite 605  
San Francisco CA 94102

**Telephone:**

Toll-Free 1-866-PRI-RUBI (774-7824)  
310-254-7149 / Los Angeles  
415-504-3654 / San Francisco

**Email:**

[jp@pricerubin.com](mailto:jp@pricerubin.com)  
[mp@pricerubin.com](mailto:mp@pricerubin.com)

**Website:**

<http://www.pricerubin.com>

**Yahoo!Messenger**

pricerubin



## Contents:

- **Biography**
- **Curriculum Vitae**

# Leon Burke- BIOGRAPHY

Leon Burke III began to dedicate his life to music when he began musical studies at age 12. His instruments were piano and organ but he also sang. By age 16 Burke began conducting orchestras. After graduating from John Burroughs School, he entered the Oberlin Conservatory in 1972. Upon graduation with a BM in Composition, he entered the University of Kansas and earned a MM and DMA in Conducting. He has been a Fulbright Fellow in Paraguay.

Dr. Burke has served as Conductor/Music Director of the **Lawrence Chamber Players, the Hutchinson Symphony, and the McPherson Symphony**. He has also been on the faculties of **Baker University, Sterling College, Hutchinson Community College, and Webster University**.

Dr. Burke is the Music Director of the **Alton Symphony**, Conductor of the **University City Symphony Orchestra** and Assistant Conductor of the **St. Louis Symphony Chorus**. He is the Choir Director at **Eliot Unitarian Chapel in Kirkwood**. Outside of St. Louis he is the Conductor for the **Metropolitan Ballet of Topeka** and conducts the **Metro East Junior Orchestra** in Belleville. He is also an adjunct faculty member at **East Central College** in Union, MO. By day he is an Environmental Consultant working as a Project Manager with United Infrastructure Corporation.

During the coming season Dr. Burke will present a vocal recital as a tribute to Paul Robeson and conduct a concert of American music in the **Czech Republic**. As Principal Guest Conductor for the **National Orchestra of Paraguay**, he will conduct concerts there in July. Burke will be the Music Director for productions of West Side Story and Jekyll and Hyde for **Spotlight Theater** this summer. He just conducted the Nutcracker Ballet with the Metropolitan Ballet of Topeka and before the holiday season is over, Burke will conduct Amahl and the Night Visitors with the **Midwest Lyric Opera** in January

# Leon Burke III

**CONDUCTOR • PIANIST • BASS VOCALIST • VOCAL COACH**

15 Oak Point Drive, St. Peters, MO 63376

Email: leonburke@aol.com • Cell: 314.566-1149 • Fax: 636.294.1947

---

## EDUCATION

**D.M.A.** Orchestral and Choral conducting, The University of Kansas (1982)

- Doctoral Thesis: *The Education and Training of the American Conductor*

**M.Mus.** Orchestral and Choral conducting, The University of Kansas (1978)

- Degree granted with honors

**B.Mus.** Music composition, Oberlin Conservatory (1976)

- Piano studies with Sanford Margolis
- Orchestral conducting with Robert Baustian
- Choral Conducting with Daniel Moe
- Composition studies with Randolph Coleman
- Vocal studies with Richard Miller

### Private Conducting Teachers:

William Schatzkamer (1968-70), John Covelli (70-72), George Silfies (1972), Daniel Moe and Robert Baustian (1973-76 Oberlin Conservatory), George Lawner and James Ralston (1976-1982 The University of Kansas), Daniel Lewis and Jorge Mester (1977 Aspen Music Festival – Student Conductor), Richard Lert and Samuel Jones (1975-76 Shenandoah Valley Music Festivals – Student Conductor), Otto Werner Mueller (1982-83)

### Conducting Master Classes:

Sir Georg Solti, Lorin Maazel, Daniel Barenboim, Harold Farberman, Leonard Slatkin, James Dixon, Dennis de Couteau, Edo de Waart, Milton Katims, David Effron, Jorge Mester, Otto Werner Mueller, Daniel Lewis

## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English is my native language. I am fluent in Spanish and have some capability in German, French, Italian, and Portuguese.

## CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

**The Alton Symphony Orchestra**

**Alton, IL**

**2010 – present**

*Music Director and Conductor*

- Pops, Educational and Subscription concerts
- Community Development

---

*Price • Rubin*  
& PARTNERS

For Booking Information please contact Jack Price, Managing Director,  
Price Rubin & Partners 310-254-7149 or email [jp@pricerubin.com](mailto:jp@pricerubin.com)

---

# Leon Burke III

CONDUCTOR • PIANIST • BASS VOCALIST • VOCAL COACH

Email: leonburke@aol.com • Cell: 314.566-1149 • Fax: 636.294.1947 • Page 2 of 8

---

**The University City Symphony      University City, MO      1996 – present**

*Music Director and Conductor*

- ♦ Expanded the season from five to six classical concerts, including one tour concert
- ♦ Doubled the budget from \$15,000 to \$30,000 annually
- ♦ Raised the level of repertoire and the musicianship of orchestra players (e.g. *Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde* very competently performed in 2008)
- ♦ Increased the caliber of guest artists to include international soloists such as Anna Lackshewitz (viola, Germany), Miguel Angel Echeverria (violin, Paraguay), Silvian Iticovici (violin, Romania) and Oscar Buriek (piano, Argentina)

**The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra      St. Louis, MO      2001 – present**

*Cover Conductor*

- ♦ Prepare concert repertoire and attend rehearsals and concerts (3-4 weeks per season)

*Assistant Director for the Symphony's Chorus*

- ♦ Assist the Director in the preparation of the chorus for 6 concerts per season with the SLSO

*Guest Conductor*

- ♦ Rehearsed and conducted the Black History Month Celebration Concert with the collaboration of the orchestra's In Unison Chorus for Beethoven's Choral Fantasy (February 2009)

**The Midwest Lyric Opera      St. Louis, MO      1995 – 2009**

*Conductor and Artistic Director*

- ♦ Cast and prepare 2-3 operas per season, engage the accompanists and the orchestra, when budget permits, as well as conduct performances. When a suitable bass is not available, I sing the role and engage the guest conductors. The active repertoire includes *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Menotti), *The Impresario* (Mozart), *The Old Maid and the Thief* (Menotti), *I Pagliacci* (Leoncavallo), and *Die Fledermaus* (J. Strauss Jr.).

**Metropolitan Ballet of Topeka      Topeka, KS      1989 – present**

*Conductor*

- ♦ Prepare annual performances of Nutcracker (2) and another ballet during the season as the budget permits

**Metropolitan Ballet of Wichita      Wichita, KS      1986 – 1989**

*Conductor*

- ♦ Prepared annual performances of Nutcracker (2) and another ballet during the season as the budget permits

# Leon Burke III

CONDUCTOR • PIANIST • BASS VOCALIST • VOCAL COACH

Email: leonburke@aol.com • Cell: 314.566-1149 • Fax: 636.294.1947 • Page 3 of 8

---

**Orquesta Sinfónica de la Ciudad de Asunción**      **Asunción, Paraguay**      **1991-present**  
*Principal Guest Conductor*

- Conduct one subscription concert per season and conducting tour concerts/television specials while there
- Conducted for international stars like Queen Elizabeth of Belgium Competition winner, Vitaly Samosko
- Work with Music Director, Luis Szaran, to increase the musicianship of the orchestra

**The Belleville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra**      **Belleville, IL**      **1995 – present**  
*Music Director and Conductor*

- Prepare and Conduct three or four concerts each season as well as conduct the Memorial Day ceremony of the City of Swansea and Summer Intergenerational Orchestra
- Increased the level of competence of the orchestra through repertoire selection
- Sent players to play with the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra
- Developed the Parents' Organization to provide operational and administrative support

**The Cadenza Orchestra of the St. Charles County (MO) Youth Orchestra**      **2008 – present**  
*Conductor*

- Conduct three concerts per season of this beginner's orchestra.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2009 & 2011. Selected as conductor of the World Youth Orchestra (*Sonidos de la tierra* and *Weltweite Klänge*) for its South American tour.
- 2007. Selected as Conductor of the 200-voice Festival Chorus for the 2007 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Portland, OR.
- 1998. Southwestern Bell Artist in the Schools for the Belleville, IL Public Schools; gave solo in-school presentations in twelve elementary schools (public and private) in February.
- 1978. Awarded the Gino Marinuzzi Baton, Gino Marinuzzi Young Conductor's Competition. San Remo, Italy
- Artist in Education for the Kansas Arts Commission (1978-91) Residencies included:
  - Lawrence 1977-8, 1983-4
  - Hutchinson 1986, 1987, 1990
  - Arkansas City 1991
  - Topeka 1989

# Leon Burke III

CONDUCTOR • PIANIST • BASS VOCALIST • VOCAL COACH

Email: leonburke@aol.com • Cell: 314.566-1149 • Fax: 636.294.1947 • Page 4 of 8

---

- Kansas City 1988

## PREVIOUS ORCHESTRAL POSITIONS

### **The Hutchinson (KS) Symphony**

**(1985-1994)**

*Music Director and Conductor*

- ◆ Conducted four classical subscription concerts and one holiday pops, two chamber orchestra and one school concert
- ◆ Worked with the board to increase the annual budget from \$25,000 to \$85,000
- ◆ Raised the level of musicianship of the orchestra and raised the caliber of guest artists
- ◆ The school concert included 7–9 chamber concerts in the schools with a chamber group of orchestra members
- ◆ The school orchestral concert was attended by 2,000 to 3,000 children annually and enrolment in high school music increased three-fold over five years of this program which I designed and instituted

### **The Lawrence (KS) Chamber Players**

**(1977-1994)**

*Music Director and Conductor*

- ◆ Conducted four of five subscription concerts and one run-out concert annually, one or two with chorus
- ◆ Worked with the board to double the budget from \$15,000 to \$30,000+ annually
- ◆ Expanded the repertoire of the ensemble from baroque to include classical and romantic works.

### **The University of Kansas Symphony**

**(1981)**

*Conductor*

- ◆ Duties included one opera, one holiday pops, two oratorios, one musical and two regular masterworks concerts
- ◆ Arranged, organized and conducted the orchestra on a 5-day Midwest tour

## GUEST CONDUCTING ENGAGEMENTS

Chaparral Music Festival (summers) 2010 to the present

Alton Symphony Orchestra (February 2010) for subscription concert

Various state and district orchestra festivals (High School) in Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, and Florida

Wichita Symphony (April 1992) on tour in Hutchinson, KS

---

*Price • Rubin*  
& PARTNERS

For Booking Information please contact Jack Price, Managing Director,  
Price Ruben & Partners 310-254-7149 or email [jp@pricerubin.com](mailto:jp@pricerubin.com)

---

# Leon Burke III

CONDUCTOR • PIANIST • BASS VOCALIST • VOCAL COACH

Email: leonburke@aol.com • Cell: 314.566-1149 • Fax: 636.294.1947 • Page 5 of 8

---

Grand Junction Symphony (May 1982) in Grand Junction, CO

McPherson Symphony (1985-86 season) in McPherson, KS as an interim conductor (4 concerts)

Aspen Music Festival (Summer 1977) in Aspen, CO

Shenandoah Valley Music Festival (Summers of 1975-76) in Orkney Springs, VA

## INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING ENGAGEMENTS

The San Remo Orchestra (May 1977 in San Remo, Italy) – International Conducting Competition

Kaiserslautern (Germany) Youth Orchestra (September 1991 in Cascavel, Brazil) – Guest Artist at Cascavel International Music Festival

Cascavel Festival Orchestra (September 1991 in Cascavel, Brazil) – Guest Artist at Cascavel International Music Festival and also gave conducting master classes and taught voice.

National Youth Orchestra Festival (July 2006 in Concepción, Paraguay) – Guest conductor for the Festival Orchestra drawn from the entire country and gave conducting master classes for the conductors.

International Festival of African and African American Music (FESAAM) – 2001 (Saint Louis Symphony in St. Louis, MO) and 2004 (University City Symphony in Kansas City, MO).

## OPERA AND BALLET CONDUCTING

- Opera Theater St. Louis, *The Very Last Green Thing* by Cary John Franklin (an opera for young people) with young artists cast by Opera Theater St. Louis (January, 1995)
- Metropolitan Ballet of Wichita (1985-1989 in Wichita) *Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Prokofiev)
- *Chaka* by Akin Euba (May, 2000 in St. Louis) with international guest artists, local musicians and the St. Louis African Chorus

## COLLEGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Adjunct Professor**, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 1977-1982

- Courses Taught: Choral conducting, orchestral conducting, score reading, opera workshop
- Conducting responsibilities: director of new music ensembles, assistant director of orchestra/opera

**Adjunct Professor**, Baker University, Baldwin City, KS 1977-1982

- Courses Taught: Music appreciation
- Conducting Responsibilities: conduct the Lawrence Chamber Players on Visiting Artist Series

**Professor**, Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, KS 1982-1985

- Courses Taught: Music appreciation, Piano, Voice
- Conducting Responsibilities: Band, Pep Band, Concert Choir, Show Choir

**Adjunct Professor**, Sterling College, Sterling, KS 1986-1993

# Leon Burke III

CONDUCTOR • PIANIST • BASS VOCALIST • VOCAL COACH

Email: leonburke@aol.com • Cell: 314.566-1149 • Fax: 636.294.1947 • Page 6 of 8

---

- Courses Taught: Theory, Orchestration, Piano

**Adjunct Professor**, Webster University, St. Louis, MO 2001

- Courses Taught: Theory (ear training)

**Adjunct Professor**, East Central College, Union, MO 2004-present

- Courses Taught: Voice
- Conducting Responsibilities: Choir

**Adjunct Professor**, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO 2005-present

- Courses Taught: Voice, Conducting
- Conducting Responsibilities: Concert Choir and Mastersingers (elite chamber chorus)

## INTERNATIONAL STUDY AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

- **Fulbright Fellow**: Asunción Paraguay. 1994.
  - Established the chorus at the *La Universidad Nacional de Paraguay*
  - Functioned as the Associate Conductor of the Orquesta Sinfónica de la Ciudad de Asunción
  - Researched South American orchestral composers for publication, prepared publications, and continue to perform worthy compositions with my orchestras.

## OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

### **Assistant Director, St. Louis Symphony Chorus (2001-present)**

- Prepare the chorus for major choral/orchestral works: Six per year on average

### **Composer: Highlights of compositions in diverse media (acoustic, electronic, jazz).**

- 1978-1983 Composer in Residence for the Kaw Valley Dance Theater (Lawrence, KS)
- 1990 Wrote the music for planetarium shows at the Kansas Cosmosphere (Hutchinson, KS)
- 2008 Wrote music for First Run Theater's festival of one-act plays.

### **Radio Personality:**

- 1972-1976 Announcer and Classical Music Director of WOBC – Oberlin, OH (Independent)
- 1976-1978 On-air host and producer of programs at KANU – Lawrence, KS (NPR)
- 1978-1980 Staff announcer for KXTR – Kansas City, MO (Independent Classical Station)
- 1995-1997 Staff announcer for KWMU – St. Louis, MO (NPR)

**Bass Vocalist: Significant experience as bass soloist with orchestras and opera – recent highlights include:**

# Leon Burke III

CONDUCTOR • PIANIST • BASS VOCALIST • VOCAL COACH

Email: leonburke@aol.com • Cell: 314.566-1149 • Fax: 636.294.1947 • Page 7 of 8

---

- ♦ Basso Profundo soloist for St. Louis Symphony's 2011 performances of *Stravinsky's Les noces*
- ♦ Bass Soloist for the annual *Messiah* by Handel in Harvard, Massachusetts 2010 to Present
- ♦ Bass Soloist for *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony* for the Belleville Philharmonic 2008
- ♦ Bass Soloist for *Rossini's Stabat mater* with the orchestra and choruses of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- ♦ Opera roles and complete performed repertoire are available upon request

## Keyboard Player: Significant experience as an orchestral pianist and organist

- ♦ 1966-1972 Organist for Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church (St. Louis, MO)
- ♦ 1970-1972 Keyboard player (piano, celesta, and harpsichord) for the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra
- ♦ 1972 Pianist for the University City Symphony
- ♦ 1972-1976 Keyboard player (piano, celesta, and organ) for the Oberlin Orchestra and the Oberlin Chamber Orchestra
- ♦ 1973-1976 Organist for Kipton Community Church (Kipton, OH)
- ♦ 1976-1982 Keyboard player for the University of Kansas Symphony
- ♦ 1988-1992 Organist for First United Methodist Church (Hutchinson, KS)
- ♦ 1995 Successful audition as Substitute Keyboardist for the St. Louis Symphony
- ♦ 1995-1997 Pianist for Eliot Unitarian Chapel
- ♦ 1995-present Staff organist for the Old Peace Chapel, Daniel Boone's Home

## K-8 Music Teacher: Archdiocese of St. Louis 1995-1998

- ♦ St. Gregory School (1996-1998)
- ♦ St. Ferdinand School (1995-1998)

## PUBLICATIONS

*Singing the Journey (a Supplement to Singing the Living Tradition)*, Unitarian Universalist Association, 2005 [compiler and contributor]

## Toscanini and Klemperer: A Comparison of their Performances of Beethoven's 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Symphonies

This excerpt from my doctoral document appeared in the *Journal of the Conductor's Guild, Volume 4, No. 3, 1982.*

## Leon Burke III

CONDUCTOR • PIANIST • BASS VOCALIST • VOCAL COACH

Email: leonburke@aol.com • Cell: 314.566-1149 • Fax: 636.294.1947 • Page 8 of 8

---

### EDITING EXPERIENCE

- Editorial board for Chalice and Flame Press, Los Angeles, CA
- Translation consultant for *Musical Consonance and Dissonance* by Saul Gaona (the English version of his innovative theory, originally in Spanish)

### REFERENCES

Eric Gaston, Artistic Programs Manager for the St. Louis Symphony  
O: (314) 286-4106; EricG@stlsymphony.org

Allen Meyers, Past President University City Symphony  
H: (314) 727-2840; allen.meyers@att.net

Jerre Honke, President of the Alton Symphony Board of Directors  
H: (618) 462-2314; honke@sbcglobal.net

Fred Onovwerosuoke, Director of African Musical Arts, Inc. and founder of the International Festival of African and African American Music  
O: (314) 652-6800; fred@fredomusic.com

Luis Szaran, Music Director for Orquesta Sinfonica de la Ciudad de Asuncion  
011-595-21-492416 (Spanish speakers only); ls@luisszaran.org

June Landrith, Artistic Director for the Metropolitan Ballet of Topeka  
H: (785) 256-6508, Ofc: (785) 271-0190

Lisa Reiss, Program Coordinator for the Belleville Philharmonic Youth Orchestra  
C: (618) 979-8466; lisa4bpyo@gmail.com

December 7, 2011

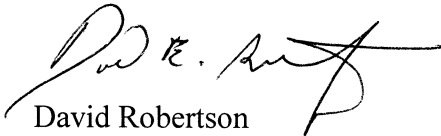
Search Committee  
Topeka Symphony Orchestra  
2100 SE 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66605

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Leon Burke in several capacities since my arrival in St Louis in 2005. He is an extremely talented and well-rounded musician. At the St. Louis Symphony we have used him to conduct rehearsals in preparation for other conductors both with the Symphony and the Youth Orchestra. We have also asked him to conduct concerts with the Symphony and the IN UNISON® Chorus. Through these performances he has exhibited strong qualities both as a conductor and a teacher. He has been cover conductor on a number of occasions, and I had a chance to watch him conduct a beautiful rendition of Mozart's Symphony No. 36 with the Orchestra during our audition process for resident conductor. Most recently, Leon sang the basso profundo soloist part in Stravinsky's *Les noces* for our opening concerts this season.

Leon's international conducting career includes repertoire that is varied and demanding for a conductor. I have recommended him on a number of occasions and feel no hesitation in doing so for, in addition to his abilities as a musician, Leon is a fine human being who possesses a grace and understanding which will serve him well in all he does.

Yours sincerely,



David Robertson

DR:shl

David Robertson, Music Director  
Ned O. Lemkemeier, Chairman  
Fred A. Bronstein, President & CEO