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# CHARLES CHEN

## CONDUCTOR



**Charles Chen**

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## BIOGRAPHY

As Music Director of the Broward Symphony Orchestra for his third season, Dr. Charles Chen has chosen an "All American Composer Music" concert to start season and he is aiming a broadened music repertoires for the rest of the concerts of the year. His unique style, leadership, and expertise have earned respect from musicians and audience members alike. His performances have consistently earned outstanding feedbacks, with applauding for his interpretations of large-scale symphonies by Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Beethoven, Shostakovich and Mozart.

Dr. Chen has He has appeared with many major orchestras, including the American Youth Symphony, the San Gabriel Symphony Orchestra, the Muncie Symphony Orchestra, the East Central Indiana Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Aspen Festival Symphony Orchestra, the Aspen Chamber Orchestra, Kent Sinfonia, the Greater Boston Cultural Association Orchestra, The Beijing Symphony Orchestra, the Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra and the Central Opera House Orchestra, Beijing.

In 2005 Dr. Chen invited Robert Theis, the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition to play Chopin's Concerto No. 2. Before this performance, Dr. Chen has also worked with other numerous world-renowned musicians and artists, such as Piano virtuosi: Yefim Bronfman, Norman Grieger, Emenual Ax ; Violin Virtuosi: Meimei Luo, Sarah Chang, Sidney Harth, Pauline Kim, Tina Chang Qu, Elizabeth Pitcairn, Alexander Treger; Violoncello Virtuosi: Ronald Leonard, and outstanding conductors: Zubin Mehta, Mehli Mehta, Leonard Slakin, Kenneth Klein, and Heiichiro Ohyama.

In addition to symphonic music, Dr. Chen has enjoyed great success conducting opera and ballet, as he has a strong background of an opera orchestra musician. He current contract of operatic performance including Miami Lyric Opera with which he will conduct "La traviata; La Boheme; Don Pasq; Elisir; Marina as well as Gala concerts for the coming season.

Dr. Charles Chen received his BA degree from the prestigious Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing. After the graduation from the Conservatory, Dr. Chen became the Principal Clarinetist of the Central Opera House Orchestra, Beijing, where he worked for five years until he left for his further study in the United States.

Dr. Chen arrived in the United States in 1987 as a graduate student of Boston University upon receiving the Director Award from the School of Music. During his residence in Boston, he served as the Music Director and the Conductor of the Greater Boston Cultural Society Orchestra and Choir. During the summer he studied at the Tanglewood Music Festival, where he participated in the conducting master classes of maestro Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa. In 1993, he received the Conducting Fellowship from the prestigious Aspen Music Festival, where he worked with Maestro Sergiu Commissiona, Lawrence Foster, James DePrist, Stanslaw Skrowaczeski, and David Ziman.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## WORK HISTORY

- 2005-- Miami Lyric Opera—Conductor  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting opera, programming operas and gala concerts, inviting guest artists, orchestra musicians, participating in orchestral administrating and planning.
- 2003-- *Broward Symphony Orchestra—Music Director/Conductor*  
*School of Visual & Performing Arts*  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting orchestra, programming concerts, inviting guest artists, recruiting/auditioning orchestra musicians, participating in orchestral administrating, planning and fund raising, teaching music theory courses, music history course and applied lessons.
- 1999-2003 *Lock Haven University Community Orchestra--Music Director/Conductor*  
*Department of Music, Lock Haven University--Music professor*  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting orchestra, making concert program, choosing guest artists, recruiting/auditioning orchestra musicians, participating in orchestral administrating, planning and fund raising, teaching music theory courses and applied lessons.
- 1996-1999 *San Gabriel Symphony Orchestra--Music Director/conductor*  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting orchestra, making concert program, choosing guest artists, recruiting/auditioning orchestra musicians, participating in orchestral administrating, planning and fund raising, serving as the spokesperson for the fund-raising and educational concerts.
- 1996-1999 *Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra--Principal Guest Conductor*  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting orchestra every summer season, choosing guest artists, taking orchestra on concert tour 2-3 weeks every summer.
- 1995-1998 *American Youth Symphony-Conductor*  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting orchestra, co-making concert program, choosing guest artists, recruiting/auditioning orchestra musicians, foreseeing outreach educational program, participating in orchestral administrating, planning and fund raising, assisting in writing grand proposal, serving as the spokesperson for the fund-raising and educational concerts.
- 1992-1994 *Muncie Symphony Orchestra--Assistant Conductor*  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting orchestra, co-making concert program, foreseeing outreach educational program, serving as the spokesperson for the fund-raising and educational concerts.
- 1990-1992 *Kent Sinfonia--Music Director/Conductor*  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting orchestra, making concert program, choosing guest artists, recruiting/auditioning orchestra musicians, participating in orchestral administrating, planning and fund raising.
- 1987-1990 *The Greater Boston Cultural Association Orchestra--Music Director/Conductor*  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting both orchestra and Choir, making concert program, choosing guest artists, recruiting/auditioning orchestra musicians and choir members, participating in orchestral administrating, planning and fund raising, serving as the spokesperson for the fund-raising and educational concerts.

1982-1987 *The Central Opera House Orchestra-Music Director/Conductor*  
Responsibilities including: rehearsing/conducting both orchestra and choir, performing opera and symphonic music, making opera/concert program, choosing guest artists/soloists, recruiting/auditioning orchestra musicians and choir members, participating in orchestral administrating and planning.

## EDUCATION

1992-1998	Doctor of Arts (Orchestral Conducting)	Ball State University, Indiana
1990-1992	Master of Arts (Orchestral conducting)	Kent State University, Ohio
1987-1990	Master of Music (Woodwind Performance)	Boston University, Mass.
1977-1982	Bachelor of Arts (Orchestral Performance)	Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing

## DISSERTATION

1997 A Study of the Orchestral Development in China:

A social-cultural-historical multidisciplinary approach has yielded a pioneering analysis of the orchestra development in China since 1840. This study has defined a modern cultural situation. This development has been influenced by musical, social, political and cultural factors, and more importantly, by the interaction among these individual factors.

## PUBLICATION AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION

A Study of the Orchestral Development in China: A Presentation on the Southern Chapter Meeting of the College Music Society, Tucson, Arizona, March, 1998.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Conductors Guild  
Conductors Association  
The College Music Society  
The National Music Honor Society  
Pi Kappa Lambda

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

June-August, 1993, *Aspen Music Festival Conducting Fellowship*  
Studied with David Zimman, Stanislaw Skrowaczski and Lawrence Foster.

June- August, 1991 *Aspen Music Festival Conducting Seminar*  
Studied with Sergiu Commissiona, James DePrist.

June-August, 1989, *Tanglewood Music Festival Conducing Seminar*  
Studied with Leonard Bernstein.

June-August 1988, *Tanglewood Music Festival Conducing Seminar*  
Studied with Seiji Ozawa

## REFERENCES

Zubin Mehta  
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Florida Philharmonic Orchestra  
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