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PAUL-ELLIOTT COBBS

CONDUCTOR

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PAUL-ELLIOTT COBBS, CONDUCTOR

Renowned in the cradle of 18th century classicism and 19th century romanticism in Vienna, and in Germany, Maestro Paul-Elliott Cobbs is a unique voice in the international music community.

Educated at the Akademie fur Musik, Vienna, Cobbs possesses an intimate knowledge of European masterworks combined with rare expertise in American multiculturalism. His interpretation of William Grant Still's Afro-American Symphony – the subject of his doctoral thesis – is considered definitive by many.

A popular guest conductor, Cobbs appears frequently with orchestras and ensembles in Europe, Asia, and the United States including Vienna's Festival Chamber Orchestra, members of the Dresden and Leipzig Opera, the Kamimura Wind Ensemble in Kagoshima, Japan; and the Seattle Symphony. Recent appearances in Poland include Filharmonia Szczeinska, Szczecin; Filharmonia Opolska, Opole; Filharmonia Baltycka, Gdansk; and the Artur Rubinstein Philharmonic Orchestra, Lodz.

A talented and inspirational educator, Cobbs is known for his insightful pre-concert lectures, educational and children's concerts, and his work with youth symphonies, school, regional, and All-State orchestras.

Cobbs began his conducting career at age 21 as Associate Conductor of the Detroit Metropolitan Symphony, Principal Conductor of its chamber orchestra, and frequent guest conductor of the Michigan Opera.

Currently, Cobbs is director of orchestral programs for Central Washington University, Music Director for the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association, one of the largest in the United States, and Music Director and Conductor of the Everett Symphony.

Cobbs received his Doctorate in Conducting from the University of Washington with an undergraduate degree in Music Education from Wayne State University.

European Masterworks – Maestro Cobbs brings to concerts of European masterworks the intimate perspective of his education in Vienna, the cradle of both classicism and romanticism, at the Akademie fur Musik, and in Germany.

African American Symphonic Works – With one of the first definitive recordings of William Grant Still's Afro-American Symphony in 1990, Paul-Elliott Cobbs established himself as a rare authority on conducting culturally authentic African American classical and symphonic works.

Education Concerts – Maestro Cobbs’s gift for engaging students in discovery concerts owes in part to the 25 years in music education that parallels his conducting career. Not only do educational concerts create the musical audience of the future, they change lives and help create the leaders of tomorrow, says the Maestro.

Following her graduate studies at Yale School of Music, in 1984, Antonia held the positions of Music Director and Conductor of the Johnson City Symphony and Youth Orchestras in Tennessee for six years.

Antonia completed a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Orchestral Conducting at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1991. A Fellowship Conductor at the Aspen Music Festival, Dr. Wilson became the Assistant Conductor of Concert Orchestra and taught conducting for composers. She has been honored as one of the top finalists in the American Symphony Orchestra League Conductors Workshops in Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Ann Arbor. Antonia conducted on a compact disc produced with the New Jersey All-State Orchestra in Atlantic City in 1993 that included Respighi's *Roman Festivals*. Dr. Antonia Joy Wilson's recent work as a Music Director and Conductor is also featured on the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra's compact disc of 1998 that includes Respighi's *Pines of Rome*. Dr. Wilson is a frequent guest conductor nationally as well as internationally.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“Cobbs’ story is the triumph of talent, determination, focus and family over odds that might have daunted a lot of hopeful young maestros.”

The Seattle Times

“Cobbs exhibits and impressive rapport with musicians as well as the audience.

The Herald

“Cobbs, the guest conductor from the USA was the high point of the concert season.”

Tageblatt, Leipzig Germany

“Two works of late Romanticism were presented by the Symphony Orchestra Opole ... with Paul-Elliott Cobbs as a conductor.... Maestro Cobbs gave the symphony a clearly defined interpretation, properly disposing all tensions.... The third movement of the symphony – which has the feel of Russian folk music in the middle – deserved to be distinguished because of the appropriate interpretation of the composers’ style and a soft, gentle articulation of the woodwinds.”

Wyborcza Gazette, translation

“Through his extensive experience with Youth Symphonies [Cobbs] is able to introduce complicated music in a non-threatening and inspiring manner.”

Verla Rae Kwiram, Northwest School

“Mere words can never thank you enough for all that you have done for the Northwest Chamber Orchestra and our delightful children’s concerts. Thanks to you, the school concerts are a tremendous success.”

Louise Kincaid, Northwest Chamber Orchestra

“After I’d [Cobbs] finished my research, I took it to the Everett Symphony and then incorporated all these things into a recording to compare with the recording by the London Symphony.’ It worked like magic. He used the two recordings to defend his thesis, and he received no arguments from those who bestowed upon him his doctorate.... As a result of his accomplishment, Cobbs has lately found himself fairly roundly celebrated in academic circles.”

The Herald

“Cobbs was about to find himself a double minority in ... former East Germany, where no American has conducted the Erzgebirge Symphony Orchestra, and few African Americans had ever been glimpsed.... Then came the curtain calls, and a standing ovation – the first most could remember there. Cobbs and the orchestra played an encore, and after the applause continued, another encore – the last movement of the Beethoven again.”

The Seattle Times

SELECTED REPERTOIRE

European Masterworks

Viennese Composers:

Beethoven, Ludwig Van	Symphonies 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9
Brahms, Johannes	Symphonies 1,2,3,4
Haydn, Franz Joseph	Symphonies 31,45,85,86,88,92,94,96,100,103,104
Mozart Wolfgang Amadeus	Symphonies 25,29,35,36,38,39,40,41
Schubert, Franz	Symphonies 3,4,5,8,9

Other 19th Century Works:

Dvorak, Antonin	Symphonies 4,5,6,7,8,9
Rachmaninoff, Sergei	Symphony 2
Tschaikovsky, Pjotr Iljitsch	Symphonies 2,4,5,6, Fancesca da Rimini

Also:

Mendelssohn, Felix	Symphonies 3,4,5
Schumann, Robert	Symphonies 1,2,3,4
Strauss, Richard	Don Juan, Till Eulenspiegel, Tod and Verklarung

African American Symphonic Works

Harry Burleigh	Ulyssess Kay
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor	Hale Smith
Nathaniel Deft	William Grant Still
Duke Ellington	Howard Swanson
James Johnson	George Walker

Sample Discover Music Concerts

Happy Birthday Martin Luther King. Created for the Seattle Symphony, featuring African American Symphonic and Gospel music.

Born in the USA. Created for the Northwest Chamber Orchestra, featuring music of American composers.

Made in the Americas. Created for the Everett Symphony, featuring music of North, South, and Central American composers.

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