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Vincent Danner

CONDUCTOR



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Vincent Danner - Conductor

BIOGRAPHY

This season marks Vincent L. Danner's tenth season with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. A native of St. Louis, he is Associate Conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Principal Conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music Degree in Orchestral Conducting with advanced studies in Conducting and Organ Performance from the University of Michigan. Danner's conducting teachers include Professor Gustav Meier, Dr. William L. Jones, Professor Michel Singher, Professor Priscilla Smith and Donald Portnoy.

Mr. Danner has made guest appearances with various orchestras around the country including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra. During the 2000-2001 Concert Season, Danner and the Memphis Symphony Orchestra were selected to prepare Derek Bermel's *Dust Dances* for the BBC. Danner also has served as Organist and Minister of Music for area churches in Oberlin, St. Louis, Detroit, Ann Arbor and Memphis.

Mr. Danner led the Memphis Youth Symphony on national and international tours to Washington, D.C., Italy, Austria and Hungary presenting a series of American Music programs. The youth symphony toured France and Switzerland in 2002 and performed for the Music Festival for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Czech Summer Music Festival at the Sorbonne in Paris. In June of 2005, Mr. Danner will again take the youth symphony on an international tour to Germany and The Czech Republic to participate in the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

Since 1996, Mr. Danner has led the Martin Luther King Community Chorus for the Memphis Symphony Orchestra's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. tribute concert and is very active in the Memphis Symphony Orchestra's educational outreach program. In 1999, in collaboration with the Black Repertory Theater of Memphis and the Memphis City and Shelby County Schools, he led the Memphis Symphony Orchestra in a concert presentation of *The Wiz*, which was awarded an honorable mention by the American Symphony Orchestra League. The following season, Danner's educational program *From Africa to Memphis* received the Sally B. Parker Award by the American Symphony Orchestra League. Danner continues to remain active in the Memphis Symphony Orchestra's education and outreach programs. In 2002, Danner was appointed Interim Director of the LeMoyne-Owen College Concert Choir and in 2003, performed for sold out audiences in Paris, France.

CURRICULUM VITAE/PROFESSIONAL SYNOPSIS

Current Professional Affiliations

Associate Conductor, Memphis Symphony Orchestra (1999-Present)

Cover Conductor for the Music Director
Conducted Pops, Subscription and Run-Out Concerts
Assist the Music Director in Artistic Matters of Symphony
Coordinated Educational Programs
Pre-Concert Presentations for Subscriptions Concerts
Worked with Local Public School Instrumental Ensembles
Attended Fundraising Events for the Symphony

Principal Conductor, Memphis Youth Symphony (1995-Present)

Audition and Select Orchestra Personnel
Present Three to Six Concerts per Season including Run-outs
Participate in Community Fundraising Events
Oversee the Artistic Operations and Overall Planning of Youth Symphony Programs
Report Monthly to Executive Committee and Board of Directors

Past Professional Affiliations

Resident Conductor (Interim Music Director), Memphis Symphony Orchestra (1998-1999)

Principal Pops Conductor
Cover Conductor
Conductor for all Run-Out Concerts including:
MLK, Sunset Symphony, New Music Festival, Chamber Orchestra,
Young Persons', Family & Subscription Concerts
Responsible for the Artistic Operation of the Symphony
Audition and Select Orchestra Personnel
Develop/Establish a Viable Music Education/Community Outreach Program
Report Monthly to Executive Committee and Board of Directors
Chair of Musicians' Artistic Planning Committee
Participate in Community Fundraising Events

Assistant Conductor, Memphis Symphony Orchestra (1995-1998)

Cover Conductor for the Music Director
Conducted Pops, Subscription and Run-Out Concerts
Assist the Music Director in Artistic Matters of Symphony
Score Reader for Televised (Live) Production of the Sunset Symphony
Coordinated Educational Programs including Preparing Educational Tapes
Scheduled Public Appearances to Promote the Symphony in the Community
Including the Televised Program: "Know the Score"
Pre-Concert Presentations for Subscriptions Concerts
Worked with Local Public School Instrumental Ensembles
Attended Fundraising Events for the Symphony

Music Director, Northern Ohio Youth Philharmonia Orchestra (1988-1991)

Audition and Select Orchestra Personnel
Present Three Concert per Season
Participate in Community Fundraising Events
Oversee the Artistic Operations of Youth Symphony Programs
Report Monthly to Executive Committee and Board of Directors

Music Director, Cleveland Heights Civic Orchestra (1989-1991)

Audition and Select Orchestra Personnel
Present Three Concerts per Season
Participate in Community Fundraising Events
Oversee Artistic Operations of the orchestra/Report Monthly to Board of Directors

Conducting Experiences

Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (2004)

The Harlem Renaissance Concert

Dallas Symphony Orchestra (2002-2004)

African American-Hispanic Festival Concerts

Charleston Symphony Orchestra (SC), Gospel Christmas Pops Concert (1999-2004)

Devise and Select Programming in Collaboration with Charleston Symphony Gospel Chorus Director and Community Partners Committee Chairperson

Playhouse on the Square & Memphis Black Repertory Theater Company

Dreamgirls (2000)

Cast Preparations and Individual Vocal Coachings
Rehearsal Accompanist

The University Philharmonia Orchestra, University of Michigan (1999)

Three Week Residency Plus One Performance

University of Memphis, Opera Department (1998)

Gianni Schicchi: Three Performances

The University Orchestra, University of Memphis (1998)

Two Week Residency Plus One Performance

Greater Bridgeport Symphony Orchestra (1996)

One Subscription Concert: "Viva Vivaldi and Friends"

Memphis All-City String Orchestra Program (1997)

Provided Extensive Workshop Rehearsals Culminating in Performance

Ann Arbor Ballet Company (1994)

Four Performances of **Casse-Noisette**

The Black Arts Orchestra, University of Michigan (1994)

Newly Formed Ensemble dedicated to the Performances of Music by African-American Composers

Allen Park Symphony/Taylor Ballet Americana (1993)

Four Performances of **Casse-Noisette**

Oberlin College, Music Theater (1985)

Fiddler on the Roof/Gilbert and Sullivan's Patience

Audition and Select Cast
Rehearsal Accompanist
Individual Vocal Coachings

Oberlin College, Assistant Conductor (1985-1986)

The Marriage of Figaro/ Ill Campiello

Assist in Auditions and Selecting Cast
Vocal Coach
Rehearsal Conductor

Education

Doctoral Studies in Orchestral Conducting (1995) University of Michigan, School of Music

Principal Applied Study: Orchestral Conducting, Professor Gustav Meier
Secondary Applied Study: Organ Performance, Dr. James Kibbie

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Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting (1994) University of Michigan, School of Music

Principal Applied Study: Orchestral Conducting, Professor Gustav Meier

Secondary Applied Study: Organ Performance, Dr. James Kibbie

Bachelor of Music Education (1988) Oberlin College Conservatory of Music

Principal Applied Study: Tuba, Ronald Bishop

Secondary Applied Study: Piano, MaryAnn Danenberg

Conducting Studies: Professor Michel Singher & Professor Priscilla A. Smith

Conducting Education

France Langué (2004)

Paris, France

French Language Studies

Conductor's Institute at the University of South Carolina (Summer, 1989)

Dr. Donald Portnoy, Professor of Conducting

Orchestral Institute of America (Summers 1989-1992)

Dr. William L. Jones, Dr. Jere Lantz & Dr. Marvin L. Rabin

Artistic Accomplishments

Resident Conductor, Memphis Symphony Orchestra

Masterprize Performance of **Dust Dances** by Derek Bermel for the
British Broadcasting Corporation; Radio B

Produced Beale Street Divas

Collaboration with University of Memphis Department of Music
Increased Audience and Single Ticket Sells by 40%

**Established Board Level Educational/Community Outreach Committee Resulting In:
Pops Series(98-99)**

Holiday Pops

Collaboration with Memphis Ballet Company
Memphis City School District
Memphis Police Department Boys' Chorus

Halloween Pops (Full & Family)

Collaboration with Memphis Ballet Company
Increased Audience by 20%

The Wiz

Collaboration with the Memphis Black Repertory Theater Company
Collaboration with Memphis City and Shelby County School Districts
Promotion of Production in Under-represented Segments of Local Community
Successful in Obtaining New Funding Sources:

Plow Foundation and Promus Hotel Corporation

1,069 Single Tickets Sold (Evening Performance)

301 Single Tickets Sold (Open Rehearsal)

Symphonic Wonders Series (Young Persons' Concerts: 98-99)

YPC I: 1,243 Single Tickets Sold

YPC II: 2,867 Single Tickets Sold (Three Performances)

Increased Funding by 12% from 1997-98 Concert Season

Increased Audience by 60% from 1997-98 Concert Season

Symphonic Wonders Series (Young Persons' Concerts: 99-00)

YPC II: From Africa to Memphis Grades 9-12 Only

1,500 Single Tickets Sold (Two Performances)

Collaboration with Memphis City Schools, LeMoyne-Owen College & Shelby County Community College & Local Artists

Symphonic Wonders Series (Young Persons' Concerts: 00-01)

YPC I: Music and Shakespeare Grades 9-12 Only

1,600 Single Tickets Sold (Two performances)

Collaboration with Memphis City Schools, Rhodes College and Memphis Center for Arts Education

Family Series (98-99)

Family I: 1,130 Single Tickets Sold

Family II: 1,157 Single Tickets Sold

Increased Audience by 45% from 1997-98 Concert Season

Chamber Orchestra Series (98-99)

Concert I: 246 Single Tickets Sold

Concert II: 659 Single Tickets Sold

Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Performance

Produce: *Images of the Dream*

Collaboration with BridgeBuilders of Memphis

Collaboration with Memphis City School System

Increased funding by 12% from 1997-98 Concert Season

Created Music Educational Internships for Eight Graders (Pilot)

Established Open Rehearsals to Attract New Subscribers & Corporate

Sponsors Resulting in increase Funding and New Subscribers for 1998-99 Concert Season

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Chorus Coordinator

Successful in Including Various Church and High School Groups

To Date 300 Individuals Have Participated

Principal Conductor, Memphis Youth Symphony

Increased Personnel by 5%

Increased Minority Involvement by 10%

Increased Budget by 10% (Excluding Tour Budget)

Represented the State of Tennessee in Three Tours:

National Festival of the States (By Invitation)

American Music Celebration in Italy (By Invitation)

American Music Celebration in Austria/Hungary

France and Switzerland Tour

Performed for National Orff Convention

Assisted and Successful Fundraising Efforts Totaling More than

\$130,000 Including Funding from City, County and State

Governments

Produced Two Compact Disc Recordings for Community Exposure

Extended Concert Season by One Month Due to Run-Out Performances

Teaching Experience

LeMoyne-Owen College, Assistant Professor of Music (2002-2005)

Director, Concert Choir

Basic Orchestral and Choral Conducting

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Overton High School for the Performing Arts (1999)

Artist in Residence, String Orchestra Program

Cleveland Heights High School (Certified Music Educator, 1988-1992)

Symphony Orchestra, Concert and Intermediate Level Bands

Co-Director of Marching Band

Co-Director in Vocal Music Department

Instructor of Music History, African American Music, Theory & Conducting

Liaison to Band and Orchestra Parent Organization

Drama Director

Served on Committees for Educational Reform

Participant in Race Relations Workshops

Non-Curricular Assignments

Teaching Assistant, University of Michigan (1992-1995)

Conduct University Orchestras for Performances as Assigned

Conduct Campus Orchestras (Non-Music Majors) for Performances

Administrative Experience

Artistic Director, University of Memphis Community Music School (1997-1998)

On-Site Management of Program Offerings

Develop new Programs

Evaluate Personnel

Evaluate Programs within University and State Department Guidelines

Manage Fiscal Affairs

University City Education Foundation (1999)

Artistic Consultant for Jazz Showcase 99'

Producer, Listen to the Future Recording Project (1997)

Devise Budget

Oversee Financial and Artistic Matters

Prepare Ensembles for Recording Sessions

Conduct/Edit Recording Takes

Co-Producer, "Portraits of Rescuers", Facing History and Ourselves (1996)

Research and Develop Program

Devise/Create Original Script

Report Monthly to Community Alliance Committee

Awards

The Sally B. Parker Award for *From Africa to Memphis* June, 2001

Given by The American Symphony Orchestra League

Honorable Mention for Educational Production of *The Wiz* June, 1998

Given by The American Symphony Orchestra League

Leadership Institute of Memphis, Full Scholarship May, 2000

Class of 2000

Graduate Merit Fellowship 1992-1995

University of Michigan, School of Music

Rackham Minority Merit Fellowship 1994-1997

University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies

Professional Man of the Year 1992

Given by The National Association of Negro Business &

Professional Women's Club in Cleveland, Ohio

Languages

English, native speaker. French, basic reading/conversation.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM/REVIEWS

“...As he demonstrated over and over...Danner has a rare and instinctual ability to absorb and convey the character of a piece. When that character changes, he changes with it.”

**-Whitney Smith
The Commercial Appeal**

“Whether with the baroque, the contemporary Spanish, or the Romantic Schubert’s ‘Symphony Nr. 5’, Danner was equally facile and insightful. He made that exclamation point at the end...of the entire evening.”

**-Joseph Pronechen
The Connecticut Post**

“...Danner, who graces the podium as if a caged tiger on the brink of unleashing tremendous power and zeal, does...Danner was unusual controlled and exact and yet sensitive and inspired in his conducting of Schubert’s Symphony Nr. 8 in B Minor...that work elicited ineffable charm and perfection...with Danner at the helm.”

**-Sharon E. Dobbins
The Tri-State Defender**

REFERENCES

Maestro David Loebel

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Memphis Symphony Orchestra
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Professor Gustav Meier

Ann Arbor, MI
Home: (734) 769-5234*

Professor Kenneth Keissler

Director of University Orchestras
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University of Michigan
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Dr. Lawrence A. Edwards

Director, Memphis Symphony Orchestra Chorus
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Dr. G. James Gholson

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Principal Clarinet, Memphis Symphony

Frank Shaffer, Principal Timpanist

Marion Shaffer, Harpist

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