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JAMES FELLENBAUM

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

A top 5 Finalist in the 2006 First International Conductors Competition Gennady Rozhdestvensky, James Fellenbaum is a brilliant and versatile conductor, bringing outstanding performances to symphonic, pops, educational, contemporary and opera productions alike. Equally at home in professional, international and academic music settings, he is currently the Director of Orchestras at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he has received critical acclaim as Conductor for the Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra (founded in 2004), and as Conductor of Opera for the UT Opera Theater and for the Knoxville Opera Company's recent productions of Adamo's *Little Women* and Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*. He is also the Resident Guest Conductor of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

His extensively diverse background as a conductor has found him collaborating with some of the world's great artists and orchestras. He has conducted orchestras nationwide and internationally, including recent guest conducting engagements with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the Chicago ensemble Fulcrum Point New Music Project, the Aspen Summer Music Festival Academy Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa, Canada, the Satu-Mare State Philharmonic of Romania, and the Russe Philharmonic and Vidin Philharmonic of Bulgaria. He has served as an assistant conductor with Opera Omaha, participated as an Academy Conductor in the American Academy of Conducting, during the 2002 Aspen Summer Music Festival, and was part of Pinchas Zuckerman's Conductors Programme in the summer of 2003. He has also served as an assistant to the Principal Preparatory Conductor of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

From 1999-2001, James Fellenbaum was the Music Director and Conductor of the Orchestra of the Pines in Texas. Along with new developments in subscription concert programming, he designed the first-ever children's concerts in the east-Texas community. After his final concert—which included the orchestra's first performance of a world-premiere work and a solo appearance by Charles Pikler of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra—he was presented the Key to the City by the Mayor of Lufkin as an ambassador to the city's cultural landscape. Also, in conjunction with his position as Music Director of the Orchestra of the Pines, James was the Director of Orchestral Activities and Instructor of Violoncello at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX. He founded and directed the SFA Chamber Orchestra, which became the featured ensemble on the first-ever tour of public schools in east Texas, and developed the first SFA Concerto Competition. He also conducted several performances with the SFA Opera Theater program as Opera Music Director and Conductor.

From 1994-1999, James Fellenbaum was the Artistic Director of the North Shore Chamber Orchestra in Evanston, IL, an affiliate of Northwestern University. Along with his administrative and musical duties, he helped create a 30-minute television project for the Evanston city cable channel with the NSCO titled "A Rehearsal: Preparation for a Symphonic Performance." His university appointments also include North Park University in Chicago, IL, where he was the Director of Orchestral Activities and Instructor of Violoncello from 1995-1999. His recruiting efforts helped this orchestral program nearly quadruple in size, while also organizing orchestral festivals for city high

school orchestra programs. In 1997, James became Music Director of the Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra, IL, after serving as the assistant conductor for 4 seasons. He initiated new programs to continue the growth of the orchestra, including the development of the Suburban Youth Brass, acquiring local cable channel coverage of the SYSO's concerts, and expanding the chamber music and outreach opportunities for the student members of the organization.

His primary conducting teachers are Victor Yampolsky and Cliff Colnot in Chicago, and further conducting studies and masterclasses with David Zinman, Murry Sidlin, Pinchas Zuckerman, Jorma Panula, Michael Tilson-Thomas, Larry Rachleff, Christopher Wilkins, Daniel Lewis, Gustav Meier and Kenneth Keisler. James holds a Bachelor of Music degree in violoncello performance from James Madison University, and holds a double Masters degree in violoncello performance and orchestral conducting from Northwestern University.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Ensemble's lineup exciting, exceptional

Audience treated to 3 brand-new pieces at musical group's debut

"...at the James R. Cox Auditorium at the University of Tennessee were treated Sunday afternoon to an exceptional and extraordinary program of new music in an old format that existed 200 years ago but rarely occurs today.

On Sunday afternoon, excitement was the order of the day with one world premiere, one American premiere, a third contemporary work that was new to a Knoxville audience, and the debut of the University of Tennessee Contemporary Music Ensemble, which performed the three works....superbly played...

If you didn't go to this concert because you thought it was just going to be student musicians, of the dozens of concerts I have heard this season, this was one of the half-dozen best."

Harold Duckett, Knoxville News-Sentinel, April 2006

Pearl, Summitt...and now Fellenbaum get crowd roaring

"If you think this review of the University of Tennessee Symphony Orchestra reads like an enthusiastic endorsement, please read on. On Sunday afternoon at UT's James R. Cox Auditorium, the UTSO, conducted by James Fellenbaum, performed an excellent concert that was lyrical, beautiful, challenging and invigorating. The development of the orchestra under Fellenbaum's leadership has been amazing, as has the caliber of playing by the student musicians. Their Nashville performance is an honor very well deserved.

The concert opened with a beautifully played presentation of the "Overture to Nabucodonosor,"...a lovely arrangement for string orchestra of the "Nocturne," third movement, from Alexander Borodin's "String Quartet No. 2 in D Major,"...Then horn professor and Knoxville Symphony co-principal horn Calvin Smith superbly presented Mozart's demanding "Concerto for Horn and Orchestra No. 4,"...finally there was dynamic performance of Respighi's scenographic "Pines of Rome," for which Fellenbaum had soloists in the wings and staged in the audience...It got the kind of roars from the audience one expects at sporting events but seldom hears in the concert hall. Music at UT deserves something this good to cheer about."

Harold Duckett, Knoxville News-Sentinel, February 2006

UT Orchestra opens season with fervor

Conductor continues transforming ensemble with musical acumen

"A maturing University of Tennessee Orchestra opened its third season Sunday afternoon under conductor and director of orchestras James Fellenbaum, who continues to transform classical orchestral performance at UT. The large audience at the James R. Cox Auditorium was rewarded with a robust performance of Beethoven's "Concerto No. 5 in E Flat Major," Op. 73, with pianist David Northington as soloist, along with two other well-played works...The concert of music with dynamic and dramatic contrasts began with a confident performance of the overture to Richard Wagner's "Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg," completed in 1867. From the beginning, it was clear that each of the orchestral sections played Wagner's layered language with a new sense of hearing what is going on in the other voices in the orchestra. The sense of interplay and dialogue has become intuitive and conversational. Much of this, of course, is due to Fellenbaum's considerable skill at building an orchestra, but it was also clear that his leadership, as well as the teaching skills of UT's string instrument professors in the School of Music, is attracting students with higher musical acumen...Exploring Beethoven's deployment of the piano as both a percussive and a singing instrument, Northington's playing was strong and incisive in the declarative statements, as well as smooth and lyrical in the cantabile passages. The slow "Adagio," second movement, with its hymn-like melodies, was beautifully played by both Northington and the orchestra. The duet passages between piano and wind instruments were especially lovely. Northington's sensitive, flowing transition into the brisk "Allegro" had a delightful sense of anticipation and reward...to close the concert, Fellenbaum's troops superbly delivered another work with dramatic contrasts: Tchaikovsky's musical fantasy on "Romeo and Juliet"... judging from Sunday's crowd and the thoroughly satisfying performance of the orchestra, these programs may soon become standing-room only."

Harold Duckett, Knoxville News-Sentinel, October 2005

Irvin stands alone in show; Fellenbaum ties together double bill

"Holding all this together, for both the Rossini (*La cambiale di matrimonio*) and Robert Ward's one-act "Roman Fever" that is the second half of the double bill, is the conducting of James Fellenbaum, who continues to work wonders with his student musicians. The orchestra in the pit on Saturday afternoon bears no resemblance to the ensembles that struggled through performances before Fellenbaum arrived as director of orchestras at UT."

Harold Duckett, Knoxville News-Sentinel, April 2005

Orchestra's improvement continues

"The surprising and delightful transformation of the UT Symphony Orchestra continued

CURRICULUM VITAE

CURRENT POSITIONS

2006-present Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, Knoxville, TN
Resident Guest Conductor

2003-present University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
Director of Orchestras
Conductor of Opera – UT Opera Theater and Knoxville Opera Company
Productions of *Little Women* and *The Most Happy Fella*

COMPETITIONS

2006 First International Conductors Competition Gennady Rozhdestvensky
Top 5 Finalist – 112 applications worldwide, 20 chosen to compete

POSITIONS HELD

2006 Knoxville Symphony Orchestra, TN
Cover Conductor for March Subscription Series

2005 Sewanee Summer Music Festival, Sewanee, TN
Resident Conductor, Conducting Professor

2004 Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, PA
Cover Conductor for February Pops Series

2004-2005 Symphony of the Mountains Youth Orchestra, Kingsport, TN
Guest Music Director and Conductor

2002-2003 Lake Forest Symphony, IL
Rehearsal Assistant, Education Outreach Coordinator

2002 Opera Omaha, NE
Assistant Conductor for April Production of *Don Giovanni*

1999-2001 Orchestra of the Pines, TX
Music Director and Conductor

1999-2001 SFA Chamber Orchestra, Nacogdoches, TX
Founder, Music Director and Conductor

1999-2001 Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX
Director of Orchestral Activities, Instructor of Cello, Lecturer

1997-1999 Suburban Youth Symphony Orchestra, Tinley Park, IL
Music Director and Conductor
Assistant Conductor, 1993-1997

1995-1999 North Park University, Chicago, IL
Director of Orchestral Activities, Instructor of Cello, Lecturer

1994-1999 North Shore Chamber Orchestra, Evanston, IL
Artistic Director

1993, 1994 Hartwick College Summer Music Festival and Institute, Oneonta, NY
Conductor of Concert Orchestra, Conducting Faculty, Cello Faculty

1991 Spring String Thing Music Festival, James Madison University, VA
Assistant Conductor

GUEST CONDUCTING

2006, 2005 Johnson City Symphony Orchestra, Johnson City, TN

2004 Symphony of the Mountains, Kingsport, TN

2004 Satu-Mare State Philharmonic Orchestra, Satu-Mare, Romania

2003 National Arts Centre Orchestra, Ottawa, ON

2002 Fort Wayne Philharmonic, IN

2002 Fulcrum Point New Music Project, Chicago, IL

2002 Vidin Philharmonic, Vidin, Bulgaria
 2002 Vandercook Philharmonic Strings, Chicago, IL
 2001 Russe Philharmonic, Russe, Bulgaria
 2001 Rapides Youth Honors Orchestra, Alexandria, LA
 2001, 2000 Texas Honors Orchestra, Nacogdoches, TX
 1999, 1993 Northwestern University Faculty Recitals, IL
 1999 University of Chicago Contemporary Chamber Players, IL
 1998 Waukegan Symphony Orchestra, IL
 1993-2002 Northwestern University Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, IL
 15 concerts
 1991 James Madison University Chamber Orchestra, VA

REHEARSAL ASSISTANT/GUEST REHEARSAL CONDUCTOR

2004-2005 Symphony of the Mountains, Kingsport, TN
 2004 Indiana University Summer Orchestra, Bloomington, IN
 2002-2003 Lake Forest Symphony, Lake Forest, IL
 2001-2003 Northwestern University Orchestras, Evanston, IL
 1997-2003 Civic Orchestra of Chicago, IL
 1997-2003 DePaul University Symphony Orchestra, Chicago, IL
 1997-2003 Midwest Young Artists Youth Organization, Fort Sheridan, IL
 1998 Evanston Symphony Orchestra, IL
 1992-1995 Northwestern University Orchestras, Evanston, IL

ORCHESTRAL READINGS AND CLINICS

2005 ETSBOA Senior Orchestra Clinic, TN
 2004 Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra, PA
 2003 ETSBOA Junior Orchestra Clinic, TN
 2003 National Arts Centre Summer Festival, Ottawa, ON
 Conductor Participant, Conductors Programme
 2002 Aspen Summer Music Festival, Aspen, CO
 Academy Conductor, American Academy of Conducting
 2001, 1996-97 American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Workshops
 1999, 1996 Conductors Guild Conducting Workshops
 Voted by Faculty "The Outstanding Participant", 1999 workshop
 1992-present 63 Orchestral High School and Junior High School Clinics
 1992 IMEA District Workshop Orchestra, IL

EDUCATION

coursework completed Doctor of Music in Orchestral Conducting candidate
 Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
 Bruce S. and Lucile T. Parkhill Endowment Award for Conducting,
 1995
 June, 1994 Double Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting and Cello Performance
 Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
 May, 1991 Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance
 James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

REFERENCES

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