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# Serge Fournier

## CONDUCTOR



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<http://maestrosergefournier.com>

## Serge Fournier- Conductor

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Before Serge Fournier was twenty years old, he had already won three first prizes from the prestigious Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris. Beginning his musical studies on the flute at the age of ten, an early prize in flute had quickly identified his extensive talents to the teachers at the Conservatoire.

While performing as a flutist in various orchestras of Paris, Fournier pursued a conducting curriculum at the Conservatoire. There, he studied harmony with the noted composer Maurice Duruflé and conducting with Louis Fourestier, Music Director of the Paris Opera. Another teacher and mentor was the legendary Charles Munch who helped give direction, guidance and inspiration to the aspiring young conductor from Tours. Fournier's demonstrated commitment to his studies, aided by his practical experience as a flutist playing in orchestras, earned him yet another first prize from the Conservatoire, this time for orchestra conducting.

Maestro Fournier attained his first conductorship with the Orchestre du Grand Casino de Vichy. In his next position, he would follow Pierre Boulez as Conductor of the Compagnie Renault-Barrault, Théâtre de France, in Paris.

In order to extend his knowledge and repertoire beyond the French tradition, he travelled to study in Rome and Munich where he not only mastered the languages of those countries, but mastered the classical compositions and styles of these great cultures, the high point being his studies with Friedelind Wagner and Walter Felsenstein at Bayreuth.

Before Fournier was yet thirty, Charles Munch, then Music Director of the Boston Symphony invited the young conductor to study at Tanglewood, where, once again, Fournier distinguished himself by winning the prestigious Koussevitsky Memorial Conducting Prize. This exposure at Tanglewood brought him his first conducting post in the U.S., as assistant conductor to Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. Here he made his American television debut and launched a career in the States. Serge Fournier spent fifteen seasons as Music Director of the Toledo Symphony and has just completed nine seasons with the Oak Ridge Symphony and Chorus.

Maestro Fournier's guest appearances have included such notable North American Orchestras as: the Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, The Orchestra of St. Luke's, St. Louis Symphony, New Orleans Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Seattle Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, and the Florida Orchestra. In addition, Fournier has conducted orchestras throughout the world including Berlin, Brussels, Tokyo, Athens, Mexico City, Turin, Naples and of course his native France.

His warm collaborations with fellow performers include such artists as: André Watts, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Maurice André, Janos Starker, John Browning, Nathan Milstein, Itzak Perlman, Salvatore Accardo, Pierre Fournier, The Jess Trio, Vienna..and Van Cliburn to name but a few.

In addition to his conducting, Maestro Fournier has led seminars and master classes at various universities across the world.

# Serge Fournier- Conductor

## CURRICULUM VITAE/PROFESSIONAL SYNOPSIS

### Education:

Graduate Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris with academic honors as follows:

- Premier Prix de Direction d' Orchestre (Conducting)
- Premier Prix d' Ensemble Instrumental (Chamber Music)
- Première Médaille de Solfège
- Premier Prix de Flute
- Premier Prix d' Histoire de la Musique (Musicology)
- Deuxième Accessit de Contrepoint

Studies at Munich (Musikhochschule) and Rome

Friedelind Wagner's - Master Class at Bayreuth

Studies in Harmony with noted Composer Maurice Duruflé

Studies in Conducting with Louis Fourestier, Music Director of the Paris Opera

### Awards:

- Koussevitsky Memorial Conducting Prize, Berkshire Music Center, Tanglewood
- Honorary Member PI DELTA PHI Société d' Honneur Française
- DFA (Honorary) University of Toledo
- Chevalier de l' Ordre des Arts et Lettres, awarded by the French government for outstanding achievements in the promotion of French Arts and Cultural Relations

### Professional Associations:

- **Conductor** of the Orchestre du Grand Casino de Vichy (France)
- **Conductor** of the Compagnie Renault-Barrault, Théâtre de France, in Paris, succeeding .Pierre Boulez
- **Assistant Conductor** to Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic
- **Music Director** of the Toledo Symphony for fifteen seasons and just completed nine seasons with the Oak Ridge Symphony and Chorus.

**Guest appearances have included such notable North American Orchestras as:** the Chicago Symphony, New York Philharmonic, The Orchestra of St. Luke's, St. Louis Symphony, New Orleans Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Seattle Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, and the Florida Orchestra.

**In addition, Maestro Fournier has conducted orchestras throughout the world including:** Berlin, Brussels, Tokyo, Nagasaki, Athens, Mexico City, Turin, Naples and of course his native France (Orchestre National, Orchestre Philharmonique de l'ORTF, Orchestres Colonne and Lamoureux, Orchestre du Capitol de Toulouse, Orchestre National de Lille and Lyon).

**Collaborations with fellow performers include such artists as:** André Watts, Jean-Pierre Rampal, Maurice André, Janos Starker, John Browning, Nathan Milstein, Itzak Perlman, Salvatore Accardo, Pierre Fournier, The Jess Trio, Vienna..and Van Cliburn to name but a few.

**Teaching:** In addition to his conducting, Maestro Fournier has led seminars and master classes at various universities across the world.

### Notable Premieres:

- **World Premiere:** Autumn Music, Andrzej Panufnik, Orchestre Philharmonique de l' O.R.T.F, Paris
- **World Première:** Flute Concerto, Aram Khatchaturian, Jean-Pierre Rampal, soloist, Toledo Symphony Orchestra
- **World Première:** Trombone Concerto, Mark Harrell, Sam Chen, soloist, Oak Ridge Symphony

## Serge Fournier- Conductor

### CRITICAL ACCLAIM/REVIEWS

“Warm and enthusiastic ovations” - Napoli Notte

**PARIS:** “The assurance, the ardent conviction of the conductor, Serge Fournier, galvanized the orchestra and rapidly converted the audience. Under his insistent baton, Varese's ARCANA unfolded as a sonorous jungle: the METAMORPHOSES by Hindemith triumphed.” (Orchestre National) - Le Figaro

**NEW YORK:** “The Orchestra of St. Luke's performed an all Beethoven program of Coriolan overture, Emperor Concerto and Symphony No. 7. The audience was truly impressed by Serge Fournier's performance. His distinctive baton technique was superb, also, the cooperation of the well rehearsed orchestra staff. It was a wonderful performance that gave the audience a deep feeling.” - Kenju Mochizuki, Ongaku No Tomo

**CHICAGO:** “Fournier is a vital musician who knows his business and puts it to exhilarating use. Let us hope that he will be invited back.” (Chicago Symphony) - Roger Detmer

**MONTREAL:** “Under Mr. Fournier's attentive and moving direction, the orchestra and soloist established a dialogue of great beauty. It is not often also that a conductor so artfully accompanies a soloist. For me the proof is made, Serge Fournier is a conductor we must see again in Montreal, who has earned the confidence of the musicians of our orchestra, and who should from now on be able to present concerts with them which will be immediately extraordinary.” - La Presse

**NEW YORK:** “Mr. Fournier undertook the Presto with plenty of fire.” (New York Philharmonic) - Christian Science Monitor

**ST. LOUIS:** “Under Mr. Fournier's direction, the orchestra achieved a fineness of sound and ensemble. He seems to know his music thoroughly. The Beethoven Overture was precise and alive. The Berlioz Symphony Fantastique produced brilliance and beauty. Conductor Fournier kept his forces alert and well balanced and the string sections, whose quality largely determines the status of an orchestra, sounded surprisingly good.” - Post Dispatch

**MIAMI:** “He has beautiful control, knows exactly what he wants, approaches the music with fire and forcefulness, has no affectations and turns out a musicianly job every time. Fournier unleashed and damped down the orchestral forces with fine control. He showed here a superior sense of balance and an ability to achieve enormous build-up.” - Miami Herald

**INTERLOCHEN:** “Andre Watts, Serge Fournier made evening extraordinary. Fournier, again a master at judicious conducting, was certainly energetic but never took advantage of the baton in boisterous passages nor let the calm ones sleep. Through Brahms' typical rhythmic complexities, he was always the glue between soloist and ensemble.” - Traverse City Record Eagle

**OAK RIDGE:** “It is a rare and precious thing for a city to have the high caliber of musical performances the Oak Ridge Symphony and Chorus provides. Fournier's energy and sharpness brought out all the fascinating details of Honegger's King David...a standing ovation was a must...another star in Fournier's crown.” - Becky Ball, The Oak Ridger

**KNOXVILLE:** “Carl Orff's Carmina Burana had more orgasmic energy than one normally expects from an audience, chorus, and conductor”... it was the most energized (performance), I have ever heard, with Fournier driving the punctuated rhythms and pounding irresistible orchestrations...”

“Organ, ORSO Unite for Glorious Live Music” (Jongen- Symphonie Concertante, Saints Saëns Third Symphony “Organ”)

“Musical Merriment brings down the house in Oak Ridge”.. on Saturday night the Oak Ridge Symphony and Chorus didn't just present a concert, they had a celebration” (Offenbach, Strauss, Delibes, Léhar,Verdi,)”

“Fournier and the ORSO gave a memorable performance of Beethoven's famous “Symphony #5 in C Minor,” Op. 67. It was certainly one of the best symphonic performances I have heard in Oak Ridge. We rarely hear this great work with the emotions that must have welled up in early audiences”. - Harold Duckett, Knoxville News Sentinel

Serge Fournier- Conductor

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**REFERENCES: SERGE FOURNIER**

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Clarinetist, Toledo Symphony

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