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Robert Gutter

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Internationally popular with audiences and musicians alike, Robert Gutter has directed symphonies and opera companies in over thirty countries including the major cities of the world: New York, Washington, London, Paris, Vienna, Milan, Florence, Madrid, Stuttgart, and Tienjin (China). Experienced in working in many cultures, he has received praise in many languages for his symphonic and operatic performances.

Maestro Gutter's opera credits include guest engagements with the Vienna Volksoper, Linz Stadtheater, Teatro Lirico d'Europa, Teatro Massimo Bellini, the New Orleans Opera, the Connecticut Grand Opera, and the State Opera in Astana, Kazakhstan. In 1996 -2000 he served as Principal Guest Conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of the Ukraine in Kiev. Other notable orchestras he has conducted include the Stuttgart Philharmonic, Irish Radio Symphony, London Schubert Players, Liège Philharmonic, Hermitage Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Academic Capella of St. Petersburg, Toronto Radio Orchestra, Victoria Symphony, Ljubljana Radio-TV Symphony, Bucharest Symphony, Orquesta Sinfónica de México, Cairo Philharmonic, Turkish State Orchestra, Hartford Symphony, Colorado Springs Symphony, and the Albuquerque Symphony.

Maestro Gutter continues to expand his international guest conducting appearances. Since the year 2000 he has received invitations to conduct not only in cities where he is known and loved, but in new cities and countries to include St Petersburg, Milano, Liège, Reykjavik, Concepción (Chile), Skopje (Macedonia), Tenerife (Canary Islands), Vilnius, Lithuania, Almaty (Kazakhstan), Astana (Kazakhstan), as well as several new cities in Bulgaria and Romania.

Robert Gutter is the current Music Director of the Philharmonia of Greensboro in North Carolina. Experienced with a broad spectrum of 18th to 21st century repertoire in symphonic, opera, chamber and choral works, he is skilled in programming imaginative concerts which are engaging for audiences and orchestras alike. Incisive and efficient in rehearsal, Maestro Gutter is able to bring an orchestra to very high technical and musical expression in a minimum amount of rehearsal time. Coupled with his quick score study abilities, he has often been used to fill sudden podium needs. Considered a champion of contemporary music, he has made recordings and conducts several concerts of new music each year.

Sensitive to artists and soloists, Maestro Gutter has extensive experience accompanying the major artists of the world. In his 30 years as a professional conductor, he has devoted himself to both professional and non-professional orchestras in the United States and abroad. Well respected as an adjudicator and educator, Mr. Gutter is Artistic Director and a faculty member of the International Institute for Conductors in Bacau, Romania. As the current Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro he has won first place three times from the National Opera Association's Annual Opera Production Competition. He serves as a clinician and All-State conductor throughout the United States.

Prior to accepting orchestral posts in North Carolina in 1988, Mr. Gutter was Music Director and Conductor of the Springfield (Massachusetts) Symphony. During his sixteen years tenure in Springfield, he was credited with building the Springfield Symphony Orchestra into one of the nation's most respected regional orchestras. In 1986 he was named "Conductor Emeritus" of that orchestra.

Maestro Gutter was born in New York City, New York in 1938 and is a graduate of New York's renowned High School of Music and Art and the Yale University School of Music. He has received a diploma from the Chigiana Academy of Siena, Italy where he studied with the late conducting pedagogue, Franco Ferrara.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Salzburg

The Wiener Volksopernorchester under the impressive conductor Robert Gutter, played in a polished and precise manner and with a beautiful sound. It was a great success.

-The Salzburger Nachrichten

It was a pleasure to listen to (the Wiener Volksopernorchester) and Robert Gutter, an authority who knew how to lead it.

-Tagesblatt

Stuttgart

The Stuttgart Philharmonic, under the direction of guest conductor Robert Gutter, was an absolute accomplishment and artistically excellent. The enthusiastic audience took home a very interesting and lively musical experience.

-Vorarlberger Nachrichten

American conductor, Robert Gutter, known internationally as a specialist of contemporary American music, achieved an absolute valid, and so to speak, authentic presentation. He is professionally superior and led the Swabians from Stuttgart securely through the difficult slalom between symphonic and jazz music. He paid close attention to the very important orchestral tone. Our expectations were definitely fulfilled.

-Vorarlberger Tageszeitung

Spain

Applause and more applause forced the encores, first "Toreador" from Carmen then "Pizzicato Polka", really delightful, emphasizing the great personality of the director, Robert Gutter. What exaltation!

-El Diario

A magnificent experience for the audience that filled the seats of the Gran Teatro was provided by the concert of the Orquestra Classica Virtuosi de Bucharest, directed masterfully by Robert Gutter. In the first piece, the overture to the operetta, Die Fledermaus, was really delightful. Then came the polka "Jockey", a tasty morsel, followed by the beautiful waltz "Voices of Spring" producing smoke from the applause.

-Elche Diario

Germany

Gutter conducting emphatically began with the Holberg Suite for String Orchestra by Grieg. Baroque form and splendor were immediately evident at the beginning of the Prelude, which was exhilarating in its tempo, dynamics, and powerful forte-piano contrasts, achieving the character of minstrelsy through its unexpected rubati. In the Saraband, the bright Nordic quality of the sound was given full expression. The Gavotte and Musette were gracious, the Air expressive and finally the Allegro con Brio outspokenly capricious in nature. The whole was a perfect pleasure in its soft and thoroughly captivating string sound.

-Sud Kurier

New England

What stunned this listener was an authentically exciting Rite of Spring that surpassed in sheer electricity recent New York performances featuring Sir George Solti and the Chicago Symphony, Zubin Meta and the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Lorin Maazel and the Cleveland Orchestra.

-Newhouse News Service

Gutter's control over Dvorak's New World Symphony, which he conducted from memory, was confident and strongly expressive. He found a way, with an assertive dynamic range and tasteful pacing, to make this old warhorse sound fresh.

-The Morning Union

It is unlikely that one is going to hear a more exciting, dramatic, and effective performance of the Beethoven Fifth Symphony than was heard Saturday Night.

-Daily News

Mr. Gutter is an excellent Berliozian. The Springfield Symphony is an accomplished orchestra, and so the evening was valait la visite.

-The New Yorker

Under the baton of Conductor Emeritus Robert Gutter, the Springfield Symphony began with Beethoven's Creatures of Prometheus Overture. Gutter made much of Beethoven's capricious repartee between antecedent and consequent phrases, using gestures which lent the music a good-natured edge of rough-house rowdiness. The Shostokovich (5th Symphony) engulfed the effects of the first two pieces on the program, drawing their energy into its own motive progress. The orchestra played consistently well with precision and singleness of purpose. The final chord in the slow movement emerged in blissful pianissimo while the concluding measure of the finale ignited an inferno of triumph.

-The Morning Union

Springfield Symphony is first rate. There are not many orchestras across the country in any category that play as well. Conductor Robert Gutter knows the scores and has established an orchestra of outstanding quality, far beyond what could reasonably be expected of the orchestra's annual budget. Mr. Gutter's rehearsals are marvels in that they get precisely the sound the conductor seeks. He accepts nothing less than what is ideal. Bravo for the high standards of the music in the orchestra's programs. I praise the programming of the music director. The soloists are of especially high quality mixing celebrated artists with distinguished young people on the subscription series.

-Extracted from a report to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra by the American Symphony Orchestra League

Music Director Robert Gutter directs with a sensitivity to the singers' and dancers' needs, as well as to that of the score, that is particularly satisfying. This (West Side Story) is a production in which the emotional range of the music is fully explored.

-Daily News

Robert Gutter was clearly the master, leading the entire company of La Boheme with a firm, musical hand. The balance between orchestra and singers was always right yet never did one feel that the orchestra was being held down.

-Daily News

Canada

Guest conductor Robert Gutter showed his robust style throughout the whole concert. A graduate of school of New York and Italy, Gutter has made his reputation over sixteen years of the Springfield Symphony into an important regional orchestra. He has offered commissions to contemporary composers including Gunther Schuller and Canada's Michael Colgrass, and toured Europe and North America as a guest conductor. He showed himself an easy hand with commentary from the podium, and offered the interesting tidbits that Mozart had heard the Gluck opera at age six. As a conductor Gutter's manner is almost overwhelming. He lunges forward as if he would scoop the music up in large handfuls, and his intimate contact with each section of the orchestra produces striking detail and a brilliant orchestra sheen.

-Toronto Star

New Orleans

From start to finish the Barber of Seville was a sheer delight. Robert Gutter making his New Orleans debut as guest conductor, gave the performance the proper pace and it moved along with riotous humor and a lot of joy in one of the happiest evenings of opera one could hope for.

-New Orleans States Item

Dublin

Mr. Gutter started with a reading of the Brahms (First Symphony) that was unusually tragic, searing tense and stark, but entirely within the terms of the score. Mr. Gutter conducted (the Potter Irish Symphony) with obvious conviction and liking, and the orchestra played it splendidly, in full tribute to Potter, Gutter and that occasion.

-Irish Times

Sicily

The Symphony Orchestra "Pro Arte" presented an interesting program to the public of Messina under the direction of Maestro Robert Gutter, a conductor of significant reputation. The conductor was of brilliant temperament throughout the program and conducted the Mozart Symphony in A Major in particularly fine style. The Menuetto was inspired and was a forceful prelude to the Allegro con spirito which concludes the symphony and where the demonic element hidden in the tonality ran free with rapturous joy.

-Gazetta del sud Messina, Sicily

China

Most of the "devoted" type of conductors are rigorous and meticulous, they are often very strict to the orchestra. Mr. Gutter is different. He believes that the orchestra is a whole. He does not rehearse the whole work one measure by one measure but concentrates, not sloppily, on the key sections and digs out the pith and marrow. This is the first time for the players of Tian-Jin Orchestra to have such a conductor. They have a new feeling and think he is different from the others.

-Tonight, Tian-Jin China

New York

Robert Gutter has built the Springfield symphony into a major ensemble fully able to mount an exciting Rite of Spring and mount operas from Mozart to Wagner with impressive effect.

-Musical America

I hope you will accept my much belated thanks for your very caring and excellent performance of the Enchantades. I have asked CRI to send you a copy of my violin concerto.

-Tobias Picker

North Carolina

Robert Gutter, regular Director of Orchestra Activities at UNCG, conducted as penetrating an interpretation of this work as I have ever heard in concert. The student orchestra was simply astonishing. I will treasure this performance along with those I heard long ago by Leonard Rose and Zara Nelsova.

-Classical Voice of North Carolina

All sections of the orchestra seem to play at their peak during Gutter's stimulating interpretation of Elgar's "Enigma" Variations. His widely contrasted dynamics within "Nimrod," a personal favorite, were particularly noteworthy. Gutter brought the concert to an exciting conclusion with a stirring performance of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Capriccio Espagnol," Op. 34. This performance was special in no small part because these student players are still excited by the music and have not been deadened by playing it too many times--and too indifferently--as professionals. Their musical skills are unblunted by the realities of orchestral life, so this was an edge-of-the-seat performance with first rate playing from all sections.

-Classical Voice of North Carolina

Robert Gutter conducted the UNCG Opera Orchestra, a large ensemble that filled the shallow pit. He often secured lovely and idiomatic playing, and some pianissimo sustained tremolos by the strings were gorgeous.

CURRICULUM VITAE

CURRENT POSITIONS

1988 to present: Music Director, Philharmonia of Greensboro
1988 to present: Full Professor of Music, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
1987 to present Founder and Artistic Director International Institute for Conductors, Bacau, Romania

PREVIOUS PERMANENT POSITIONS

1996 to 2000: Principal Guest Conductor, National Orchestra of Ukraine
1993 –2003 Music Director and Conductor, Fayetteville Symphony, NC
1970-86 Music Director and Conductor, Springfield (Mass.) Symphony Orchestra
1978 Music Director, Leonard Bernstein Music Festival

GUEST CONDUCTING APPEARANCES

Western Europe

Stuttgart Philharmonic
Vienna Volks Opera
Vienna Festival Strings
Symphonieorchester "Hermitage" St. Petersburg
Liege Philharmonic
Irish Radio Orchestra
National Youth Orchestra of Iceland
Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra
London Schubert Players
Palazzo Pitti Orchestra, Firenze
George Enesco "Bucharest Philharmonic
Chamber Orchestra of Lombardy, Milano
Baltic Chamber Orchestra, Cartagena
Teatro Lirico d'Europa
Teatro Massimo Bellini
Virtuoso di Bucharest
State Symphony Orchestra of Moldova
Orquesta de Camara Garajonay, Tenerife
Orchestra Internazionale Della Magna Grecia
Chamber Orchestra of Perugia
Symphonic Orchestra and Chorus of Pesaro)
Romanian Chamber Orchestra, Meersburg
Moravian Philharmonic
Orquesta Sinfonica de Sevilla
Orchestra Da Camera Fiorentina, Firenze
Orchestra Sinfonica "Pro Arte", Messina
Kronstadt Philharmonic, Sansepolcro
Polish Sudets Philharmonic, Paris
Catania International Festival Orchestra, Sicily

Eastern Europe

Academic Capella Orchestra of Saint Petersburg
National Symphony of Ukraine
Lithuanian Philharmonic Orchestra
National Radio Orchestra of Kiev
Radio-TV Orchestra, Ljubljana
Rousse State Opera

Varna Philharmonic
Macedonian Philharmonic
Moldova National Chamber Orchestra
State Philharmonic of Tirgu-Mures
Bacau Philharmonic
Brasov Philharmonic
Ploiest Symphony Orchestra
Satu Mare Philharmonic
Sarajevo Philharmonic
Vidin Philharmonic

Middle and Far East

Kazak National Orchestra
Kazak State Opera
Turkish State Orchestra
National Youth Orchestra of Israel
Mataan Summer Music Camp, Israel
Cairo Philharmonic
Tienjin Symphony Orchestra, China

The Americas

New Orleans Opera Association
Hartford Symphony Orchestra
Rhode Island Philharmonic
Connecticut Opera Association
CJRT Radio Orchestra, Toronto
Victoria (British Columbia) Symphony Orchestra
Orquesta Sinfonica de Mexico
Orquesta Sinfonica Universidad Concepcion
Boulder Philharmonic, Boulder
Orquesta Sinfonica de Xalapa
Albuquerque Symphony Orchestra
National Orchestra of Uruguay (SODRE)
Santa Cruz Symphony Orchestra
Orquesta Sinfonica de Guatemala
Orquesta Nacional de El Salvador
Springfield (Missouri) Symphony Orchestra

EDUCATION

1970 Academia Chigiana, Siena, Italy, Diploma.
1960 Yale University School of Music, Master of Music.
1959 Yale University School of Music, Bachelor of Music
1955 Graduate, High School of Music and Art, New York

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