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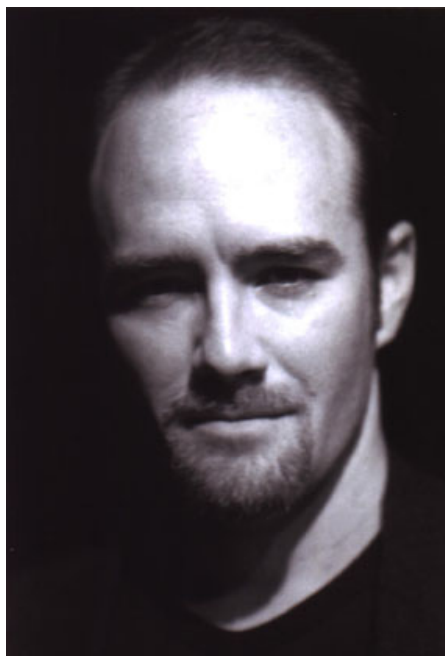
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# Silas Nathaniel Huff

## CONDUCTOR



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## **BIOGRAPHY**

**SILAS NATHANIEL HUFF** is quickly making a name for himself as a rising star in the next generation of great orchestral conductors. In 2001, Mr. Huff was named “Conductor of the Year” by California State University, and in 2003 he was a finalist in the Adegeya Republic Conducting Competition in Maikop, Russia. He has conducted performances in California, Texas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, and New York, as well as France, Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and Russia. In New York City, the Astoria Symphony—the orchestra he directs—is winning notoriety and gaining audience members at an unprecedented rate. Known primarily for his energetic and clear conducting technique and his innovative programming, Mr. Huff has quadrupled the budget of the Astoria Symphony and increased the audience size and diversity substantially, turning what was once a community ensemble into a full-blown professional orchestra.

Mr. Huff began his musical career in Texas as a classical guitarist, and has been active as a performer, teacher, composer, arranger, and conductor. He studied music at Texas State University, University of California in Los Angeles, and California State University in Long Beach while attending master classes and conductor workshops around America and the world. Mr. Huff also spent one year in residence at the Trossingen Hochschule für Musik in Southwest Germany, studied privately in Berlin, and spent two summers at the Institut Musical Provence-Aubagne in southern France under the tutelage of Yves Cohen. His studies have included lessons with some of the world’s finest Maestros, including Gustav Meier, Kirk Trevor, Rossen Milanov, Michael Tilson Thomas, Carl St. Clair, Mariusz Smolij, Harold Farberman, Barbara Yahr, Chris Wilkins and others.

Mr. Huff’s previous posts include Assistant Conductor of the **Palisades Symphony** (CA), Assistant Conductor of the **CSULB Symphony Orchestra**, Assistant Conductor of the **Greenwich Village Orchestra**, and Music Director of the **Southwest German Youth Orchestra**. Currently, he resides in New York City and is Music Director of the **Astoria Symphony**, Resident Conductor of the **Opera Company of Astoria**, and Principal Conductor of the **Lost Dog New Music Ensemble**. Mr. Huff speaks English, German, Italian, and French.

## **CRITICAL ACCLAIM**

“Silas conducted a fantastic concert. His conducting is graceful and he inspires the musicians to perform at an incredible level...he brought my music to life and thrilled the audience.”

—Leo Kraft, *composer and author, February 26, 2006*

“Silas N. Huff conducted an exciting concert of little-known American works [by Ives, Copland, Barber, and Mr. Huff himself]...The orchestra put themselves at the young American’s disposal and performed the works with full engagement...Mr. Huff’s work displayed solid craftsmanship and good ideas.”

—*Trossinger Zeitung (Schwabische Zeitung), January 29, 2002*

“Silas N. Huff’s music explores the relationship between the audience and the musicians...This principle was demonstrated in an extremely refined way by Huff’s composition.”

—*Schwarzwald Bote, June 19, 2002*

“Silas Huff is a real go-getter. He has always had some great dreams, and we believe he has the wherewithal to make them happen.”

—*Brian Swansey, Astoria Performing Arts Center,  
in the Queens Chronicle, October 30, 2003*

“Silas Huff is a diligent, responsible, motivated, energetic, likeable young man...His podium manner is friendly, respectful of the musicians, and authoritative. His physical gestures are natural and elegant, and really serve the music.”

—*Richard Rintoul, Director of Orchestral Studies,  
California State University, Long Beach*

“Silas is a talented, enterprising, and dynamic conductor.”

—*B. Allen Schulz, Composer and Editor, G. Schirmer Music Publishing*

“Silas has really developed a style of his own...He is great.”

—*Yves Cohen, Music Director, Institut Musical de Provence-Aubagne*

“Silas is great.”

—*Rossin Milanov, Associate Conductor, Philadelphia Orchestra,  
Music Director, Haddenfield Symphony (NJ), and  
Music Director, New Symphony Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria)*

“I don’t know how he does it all...Let’s hear it for Mr. Huff.”

—*Gregory O’Melia, Headmaster, The Buckley School, addressing the  
audience after a performance of Les Miserables at The Buckley School.*

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **CURRENT POSTS:**

MUSIC DIRECTOR, Astoria Symphony (New York City), 2002–present.  
Conduct six concerts and administrate twelve concerts per season, audition/hire/dismiss personnel, work with Board of Directors, script and perform educational concerts, work with marketing and development personnel, additional miscellaneous duties as necessary.

**CHAIR OF MUSIC DEPARTMENT, The Buckley School (NYC), 2003–present. Conduct four concerts and two operettas per year, administrate music department, direct two boys' choirs and two chamber choirs, audition students for various ensembles, and teach choir/singing, music history, appreciation, and theory.**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR, Lost Dog New Music Ensemble (NYC), 2000–present. Co-ordinate and conduct two concerts per season, audition/hire/dismiss personnel, select composers, commission works, work with Board of Directors, work with development personnel.

RESIDENT CONDUCTOR, Opera Company of Astoria (NYC), 2004–present. Conduct two concerts per season, coach singers and chorus members, contract orchestra.

### **RECENT POSTS:**

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR, Greenwich Village Orchestra (NYC), 2002–2005

MUSIC DIRECTOR, Southwest German Youth Orchestra (Baden-Wurtenburg, Germany), 2001–2002

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR, Palisades Symphony/Palisades Opera (Pacific Palisades, CA), 1998–2001

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR, California State University, Long Beach, 1999–2001

## CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE:

RECENT APPEARANCES AND ENGAGEMENTS: Bohuslav Martinu Orchestra (Zlin, Czech Republic), The Institut Musical Festival Orchestra (Aix-en-Provence, France), New Symphony Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria), Opera Company of Astoria (NY), Adygeya Republic National Symphony Orchestra (Maikop, Russia), Long Beach Theater (CA), Fullerton College Ballet Theater (CA)

RECENT OPERA & BALLET PERFORMANCES: W.A. Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Igor Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, Stravinsky's *Firebird* and *L'Histoire du Soldat*, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*

## RELATED EXPERIENCE:

ORCHESTRATOR/ARRANGER/COPYIST, freelance, choral, orchestral, and chamber music, 1996–present

PROGRAM EDITOR & STAFF BARITONE, Berkshire Choral Festival (Sheffield, MA), 2002-2003

ASST. PROF. OF MUSIC THEORY & MUSIC ED., California State University, Long Beach, 1999–2001

CLINICIAN, freelance, for school orchestras in the Los Angeles/Orange County area, 1998–2001

DIRECTOR OF STRINGS/AP MUSIC THEORY TEACHER, The Viewpoint School (Calabasas, CA), 1997–2001

EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE, Los Angeles Philharmonic (Los Angeles, CA), 1996–2001

## COMPETITIONS & AWARDS:

**FINALIST, Adegeya Republic Conducting Competition, Russia, 2003**

CONDUCTOR OF THE YEAR, California State University, 2001

FIRST PRIZE WINNER, Los Angeles Valley College Composition Competition, 1999

# Silas Nathaniel Huff - Conductor

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## FORMAL TRAINING:

Master of Music (Conducting)—California State University, Long Beach, 2003  
Selbständig Projekt (independent conducting project)—Berlin, Germany, 2001-02  
Kontaktstudium (professional conducting studies)—Trossingen Musikhochschule, Germany, 2001-2002

Master of Arts (Composition)—University of California, Los Angeles, 2001  
Bachelor of Arts (Performance, Composition)—Texas State University, 1996

## ANCILLARY TRAINING:

Symphonic Workshop (Czech Republic)—Kirk Trevor, faculty (2005)  
International Conductor Workshop (Bulgaria)—Gustav Meier & Rossen Milanov, faculty (2004)  
Institut Musical de Provence-Aubagne—Yves Cohen, faculty (2002 & 2004)  
Goshen College (IN) Orchestral Conducting Workshop—John Gaulty, faculty (2004)  
ASOL Chicago Youth Symphony Workshop—Carl St. Clair and Barbara Yahr, faculty (2003)  
Private lessons in choral/orchestral conducting with Maestro Donald Neuen (1996-2000)  
ASOL New World Symphony Workshop—Michael Tilson Thomas, faculty (2000)  
Bard College Conductors Institute Fellow—Harold Farberman, faculty (2000)  
Butler University (IN) Conductors Institute Participant—John Gaulty, faculty (2000)  
University of Indianapolis Conductors Institute Participant—John Gaulty, faculty (2000 & 1999)

## FOREIGN LANGUAGES:

German—*Ich spreche fließend Deutsch.*  
Italian—*Io parlo italiano.*  
French—*Je parle français.*  
Spanish—*Yo hablo un pocito Español.*

## **REFERENCES**

**Barbara Yahr, Music Director**

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**Joel Lish, Music Director**

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