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# NICHOLAS PALMER

## CONDUCTOR



NICHOLAS PALMER

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## BIOGRAPHY

Nicholas Palmer has earned wide praise for his compelling performances and emotional connection to audiences and is regarded as one of the most talented conductors on the scene today. Maestro Palmer- Music Director of the Owensboro Symphony in Kentucky, the Altoona Symphony in Pennsylvania and the Evening Under the Stars Music Festival in Massachusetts- has been called a “brilliant young music director” by Leonard Slatkin, of the National Symphony Orchestra. Palmer was a recipient of the Helen M. Thompson Award from the American Symphony Orchestra League as the nation’s most outstanding young music director.

A favorite guest conductor in Europe, Nicholas recently conducted the Europa Philharmonie at the Hundisburg Castle near Berlin, toured with the Orchestra di San Remo for two weeks in Italy and led concerts with the Czech Radio Orchestra in Prague, including concerts at the Prague and Nelahozeves Castles celebrating the music of George Gershwin. The German press recently praised Palmer: “an American guest conducting in Hundisburg---for the region a musical high point with world class flair”. Highlights of this season include performances with the Milano Classico and Perugia Chamber Orchestra in Italy.

As a Pops conductor he has won rave reviews with the Jacksonville Symphony, Huntsville Symphony, Santa Barbara Symphony, Nashville Symphony, and the Lausanne Symphony in Switzerland, among others. This season includes his Pops debut with the Virginia Symphony. Nick has worked with many top Pops performers including George Shearing, Mark O’Connor, Al Hirt, BJ Thomas, Roger Williams and many more. One critic noted: “he is intensely musical, communicates well and easily with the orchestra and manages to share the entire musical experience with the audience in a meaningful way”

Nicholas Palmer has also led concerts with the Chicago Sinfonietta, Boulder Philharmonic, Louisville Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic, Greenville Symphony and other orchestras across the USA, and was Music Director of both the Nashville Ballet and Heartland Ballet. Prior to his appointments in Owensboro and Altoona, Palmer was the Music Director of the Dubuque Symphony and Assistant Conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony.

As Music Director of the Owensboro Symphony he has helped spur a 40% increase in season ticket sales, a \$1.6 million downtown renovation project resulting in the birth of the Owensboro Symphony Academy, regional tours with artists such as Anne Murray and LeAnn Rimes, and a number of commercial CD’s and recordings on the orchestra’s SymphonicDiscoveries label. Overall, the OSO has increased programming by almost 50% during Nicholas’ tenure.

A native of Hingham, Massachusetts, Palmer graduated cum laude from Harvard University and received his Masters and Doctoral degrees in Orchestral Conducting from the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Iowa, respectively. He has also studied at the Juilliard School, Pierre Monteux Domaine School, Aspen Music School, the Festival at Sandpoint, and the Academia Chigiana in Italy, where he was a student of Franco Ferrara and Carlo Maria Giulini.

## CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“he is intensely musical, communicates well and easily with the orchestra and manages to share the entire musical experience with the audience in a meaningful way”

Boulder Daily Camera (Colorado)

“the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Nicholas Palmer showed why they have been getting rave reviews”

Cincinnati Post (Ohio)

“it is worth it, this framework of spontaneity, animation and, at the same time, a great professionalism”

Radio Suisse Romande (Switzerland)

“Palmer is in the top echelon of young conductors, whose name, for symphony music lovers will become a household word”

Altoona Mirror (Pennsylvania)

“Palmer and the orchestra moved from rhapsodic accompaniment to moments of virtuosity...(they) were not just good, they were superb”

Huntsville Times (Alabama)

“a nice mixture of aplomb and sensitivity that earned a long standing ovation”

The Sun (Arizona)

“he directed the Europa Philharmonic with craftsmanlike class, joined with American “coolness”.

Magdeburger Volksstimme (Germany)

“highly popular conductor Palmer...has done wonders with the orchestra and its acceptance in the community”

Des Moines Register (Iowa)

“the orchestra (Nashville Symphony) kept subtle modulations of tempo and tone under precise control. It was glorious to hear Tchaikovsky’s music sparkle as it was intended to”

Nashville Scene (Tennessee)

“another reason lies in the excellent musical accompaniment...the pleasurable balance between instruments and voices was deftly accomplished”

Florida Times Union (Jacksonville)

“(the orchestra) is warm and responsive and obviously enjoys working with a very talented young conductor”

Cedar Rapids Gazette (Iowa)

“Palmer knew just how to elicit long expressive moments of rare profundity”

Gazette de Lausanne (Switzerland)

“Palmer’s attention to detail as well as his distinct vision led to an unequivocal change in the way the orchestra sounded...Palmer conducts with a clear neat technique that displays precision...a top notch performance”

Naples Daily News (Florida)

“(Palmer) brought both technical polish and artistic credibility to a fully satisfying performance”

Greenville News (South Carolina)

“Conductor Nicholas Palmer brought spirited and precise performances from...the Jacksonville Symphony that perfectly complemented the vocalists in both works”

Opera News

## REFERENCES

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