



Jack Price
Managing Director

220 West Pershing
Phoenix, AZ 85029

e-mail:
jp@pricerubin.com

phone:
1-800-848-3360

fax:
1-888-439-1186

website:
www.pricerubin.com

EDWARD POLOCHICK

CONDUCTOR

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Edward Polochick

CONDUCTOR

Biography

Edward Polochick is Founder and Artistic Director of Concert Artists of Baltimore, an all-professional orchestra and all-professional vocal ensemble of over sixty musicians, which is now in its seventeenth season. Since winning the coveted Leopold Stokowski Conducting Award and, as a result, conducting the Philadelphia Orchestra, he has attracted attention as an orchestra, operatic and choral conductor. From 1979-1999 he was on the conducting staff of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as Director of the Baltimore Symphony Chorus and from 1979 on he has been at the Peabody Conservatory of Music where he is the Associate Conductor of the Peabody Orchestras, Director of Choral Ensembles and Opera Conductor. An accomplished pianist and harpsichordist, he has appeared as piano soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra with Sir Neville Marriner conducting.

During the summer of 1987 Mr. Polochick was conductor of Musicisti Americani, a chamber orchestra festival in Sulmona, Italy. In November of that year Edward Polochick conducted the Peabody Symphony Orchestra in concerts of American music in Moscow. He received an ASCAP award for adventuresome programming of American music as a result of this tour. His conducting appearances have included the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony Orchestra, Chautauqua Symphony, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, the Aalborg Symphony of Denmark, Omaha Symphony Orchestra, Tuscaloosa Symphony, Abilene Texas Philharmonic, and Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.

The 2003-2004 season marks his sixth season as Music Director of the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra in Nebraska. Mr. Polochick resides in Baltimore, where, in addition to his busy schedule with Concert Artists, the Peabody Conservatory and regular guest conducting with the Baltimore Symphony, he is often asked to share his wealth of knowledge and love of music at various lecture series, adjudications and radio broadcasts. He is the proud recipient of the Peggy and Yale Gordon Achievement Award and in May of 2000, he was made an honorary member of the Baltimore Music Club. In the spring of 2002 he was selected as the first Peabody alumnus/faculty member to receive the Johns Hopkins University Distinguished Alumnus Award and this season he has been awarded the endowed Baldwin Chair as Artist-in-Residence at The College of Notre Dame of Maryland, where he will hold lectures and panel discussions open to students and the public alike.

Conducting Experience

- 1998-present Music Director, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1987-present Founder and Artistic Director, Concert Artists of Baltimore, an all-professional chamber orchestra and all-professional vocal ensemble of approximately 30-40 musicians each. Two series: full ensembles perform a four or five-concert subscription series each season plus several runout concerts in and around Baltimore. Second series, chamber music at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion (Engineer's Club) of Baltimore, has been three concerts each season. All performers in this series are regular members of the large ensembles.
- 1979-present Faculty, Peabody Conservatory of Music. Associate Conductor of Peabody Symphony Orchestra, Director of Choral Ensembles and Opera Conductor.
- 1979-1998 Conducting staff of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Director, Baltimore Symphony Chorus. Conducted annual Messiah (from the harpsichord) and Holiday Pops concerts. Also many runouts with orchestra, including Tiny Tots and Music For Youth performances in addition to occasionally appearing on Celebrity, Favorites and Pops Series.
- Summer,
1987 Music Director, Musicisti Americani Chamber Orchestra in Sulmona, Italy. Re-engaged for following two summers, but government funding withdrawn.
- Summers,
1985
and 1986 Music Director, Young Victorian Theatre, Baltimore (Gilbert & Sullivan)
- Summers,
1980
and 1981 Assistant Conductor, Chautauqua Symphony; Conductor and Director of Choirs, Chautauqua Institution.
- 1978-1980 Music Director, Montgomery County Masterworks Chorus, Rockville, MD.
- 1966-1970 Organist and Choir Director, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Peckville, PA. Private piano instruction.

Guest Conducting Appearances

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, the Aalborg Symphony of Denmark, Omaha Symphony Orchestra, Tuscaloosa Symphony, Abilene Texas Philharmonic and Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.

Awards and Appearances

- 1962 Piano Debut at Carnegie Hall.
- 1968 Winner, Paderewski Gold Medal Award, National Guild of Piano Teachers.
- 1973 Philadelphia Orchestra Annual Piano Competition. First Prize.
Consequent solo appearance with the orchestra.
- 1975 Conducted world premiere of opera Las Rosas by Ray Jordan at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center
- 1978 Winner of first Leopold Stokowski conducting award, sponsored by the Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted Philadelphia Orchestra the following season.
- 1978 Piano soloist with Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Neville Marriner conducting.
- 1985 European conducting debut with Aalborg Symphony, Aalborg, Denmark.
- 1986 Several appearances conducting concerts and educational programs with Houston Symphony Orchestra throughout 1985-86 season.
- 1987 Conducted Peabody Symphony Orchestra in Moscow, USSR.
- 1988 Received ASCAP award for adventuresome programming of American music (programs for Moscow tour)
- 1988 Hosted Musical Encounter, an educational program about percussion instruments for grade school and junior high children. Produced by Maryland Public Television and seen regularly on over 200 Public Broadcasting stations across the country.
- 1989 Hosted a second Musical Encounter program, this time about choruses.
- 1991 Lincoln Center Outdoor Concert Series. Concert Artists of Baltimore. Soloist, Daniel Smith, Bassoon
- 1996 Received the Peggy & Yale Gordon Achievement Award.
- 1998 (to present) Continues to conduct annual performances of Messiah with Baltimore Symphony.
- 2000 Made honorary member of the Baltimore Music Club.
- 2002 Third ever Peabody alumnus to receive the Johns Hopkins University Distinguished Alumnus Award.
- 2003 Awarded the endowed Baldwin Chair as Artist-in-Residence at The College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

Videos & CD's — Available on Request

Videos:

Edward Polochick conducting Peabody Symphony Orchestra on tour in Moscow. Filmed for USSR National Television. All American music. Performed in Hall of Columns. Program:

William Schuman: *American Festival Overture*
 Ferde Grofe: *Grand Canyon Suite*
 Aaron Copland: Four Dance Episodes from *Rodeo*
 Samuel Barber: *Adagio For Strings*
 Leonard Bernstein: Suite from *On The Town*

Edward Polochick conducting Peabody Symphony Orchestra at Friedberg Hall, Peabody Conservatory. Program:

R. Vaughan Williams: *Dona Nobis Pacem*, with Peabody/Hopkins Chorus
 Gustav Hoist: *The Planets*

Musical Encounter, an educational program hosted by Edward Polochick and produced by Maryland Public Television for national distribution on PBS stations. For grade school and junior high school students. Topic: Percussion instruments.

Musical Encounter, as above. Topic: Choruses

The Baton. A half-hour documentary video, produced by the Jewish Chautauqua Society, describing the mystical language of music. Interviews include Edward Polochick, Leon Fleisher and Virgil Thomson. Background music provided by Concert Artists of Baltimore orchestra.

CD's:

A Royal Invitation, Concert Artists of Baltimore (1998 Sonora Productions)

Menotti: *Sebastian Ballet Suite*
 Argento: *A Royal Invitation or Homage to the Queen of Tonga*
 Copland: Old American Songs

Gladness of Heart, Concert Artists of Baltimore (2001 Sonora Productions)

Menotti: Concerto for Violin & Orchestra - Jose Miguel Cueto, violin
 Thompson: *The Peaceable Kingdom*
 Diamond: *Rounds* for String Orchestra

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“Polochick has brought new life into the city’s major orchestra”

Journal Star 2/03

“Polochick highlighted the talent in both wings of instrumental and vocal and also reaffirmed his noteworthy talent for galvanizing musicians.....Polochick’s command of, and affection for the piece guaranteed memorable results”

The Baltimore Sun, 10/03

“Polochick gambled on a mix of old and rare music and came up a winner”

The Baltimore Sun 2/03

“Polochick whose affinity for the choral repertoire invariably impresses, conducted a performance of remarkable beauty and depth. His tempos were propulsive, yet never rushed; his phrasing was attuned to each subtle gradation in dynamics, each expressive curve in the melodic lines. He made sure that the music retained an affecting intimacy, even at its most assertive, and the the solid, comforting architecture of the score could be deeply appreciated.”

The Baltimore Sun 3/03

“It was easy to imagine that there were 40 string players, not 20. Polochick coaxed a refined, poetic performance from them. Polochick was in his usual dynamic form, holding everything tightly together and giving the performance a propulsive kick.”

The Baltimore Sun 5/02

“Polochick and his Concert Artists of Baltimore enjoy a remarkable rapport that can produce startling, highly satisfying results. There was an electric charge behind the first notes that never let up, a charge that flowed not just from conductor to musicians, but vice versa. With his tautness, and Polochick’s sensitivity to the inner workings of a score, uncorked the full flavor of Schumann’s Symphony No. 2’s passionate, propulsive lyricism.”

The Baltimore Sun 4/01

“Polochick is a virtuoso pianist, a solid symphonic conductor, and an expert in choral music, and his versatility is reflected in every program he conducts...”

Baltimore City Paper 9/01

“Polochick kept the score taut and propulsive, tapping its dramatic undercurrent, but never at the expense of lyrical beauty. Polochick was a superb collaborator on the podium, making sure that ensemble and keyboard meshed effortlessly; the timing of the thunderous chords at the close of the first movement and the concerto’s last measures was razor-sharp.”

The Baltimore Sun 10/00

“Polochick led the instrumental portion of this orchestral/choral organization in a remarkably affectionate and affecting account of Copland’s most beloved work....it’s hard to make such a well-worn work sound thoroughly fresh.....did just that.....the conductor ensured that the score unfolded as one seamless, evocative thought”

The Baltimore Sun 11/00

“Polochick inspires first-class singing....”The Blue Bird” was exquisite – immaculate in its details, beautiful in its balances and shimmering with atmosphere”

The Baltimore Sun 10/98

“Polochick was a commanding presence on the podium as he led the combined forces with his highly involved, physical style. He drew the best from both singers and musicians, achieving vivid, involving interpretations that totally engaged the works and pushed them to their musical and emotional limits.”

Omaha World-Herald 3/97

“Polochick indeed, was the big story of the evening.....his music was much the most efficient, interesting, and enlightening of any conductor recently at work at the TSO.....The chief thing here is an absolute focus in rhythm, tempo, attack, phrasing and release, such that the playing is always prompt and coordinated. Dynamic volume becomes a by-product of the timing, rather than a product of playing loudly or softly. It is an approach that worked wonders with the TSO, whose intonation and timing have never sounded so fine...with Polochick conducting, the TSO danced and sang, at moments thrillingly so.....At every point of the piece, whenever things tended to sink or to flag, Polochick lit the vital spark, and the music began to fly. The man may be said to have perfect rhythm – in the way that others are said to have “perfect pitch”...he would of course, make a wonderful Music Director of the TSO.”

The Tuscaloosa News 9/97

References

David Zinman, Music Director
Tonhalle Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival
Todistrasse 1
Zurich 8002
Switzerland
phone: 011-41-1-201-1386
fax: 011-41-1-202-0188

USA: P.O. Box 486
Cape May Point, NJ 08212
phone: 609-898-0411
e-mail: zinnybaby@aol.com
satyammary@aol.com

Leon Fleisher, pianist & conductor
20 Merrymount Road Baltimore, MD 21210
e-mail: kljacobson@hotmail.com

Ann Schein, pianist & Earl Carlyss, violin 1
9 Turtle Pond Lane Bedford, NY 10506
phone: 914-234-0287
e-mail: scheina@optonline.net ecarlyss@optonline.net

Dr. Robert Sirota, composer, conductor, Director of Peabody Institute
c/o Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University
1 East Mount Vernon Place Baltimore, MD 21202
phone: 410-366-0999(h) 410-659-8100 ext. 3060 (w)
e-mail: rsirota@peabody.jhu.edu

Edward Williams, Executive Director Lincoln Symphony Orchestra
233 S. 13th Street, Suite B102 Lincoln, NE 68508
phone: 402-327-2533 (h) 402-476-2211 (w)
e-mail: director@lincolnsymphony.org