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LARRY SIMS

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Larry Sims conducted the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra from 1986-2004, acting as music director and conductor. Under Sims' direction, the orchestra performed more than 75 concerts with a repertoire of nearly 400 selections, and he continually inspired and led the 70-piece orchestra to an ever-higher caliber of performance.

"The Gainesville Symphony Orchestra is quite simply the best small-city orchestra I have heard in my half-century of concertgoing," wrote Anne Madison, arts critic for the daily newspaper, in her farewell column to Sims. "...[Maestro Larry Sims] recruited talented and professional players for the principal chairs, many of them commuting a couple of hours each way to play under him."

During his 18-year tenure with the GSO, he conducted a wide array of music from Baroque to 20th Century orchestral pieces and John Williams. His charisma and conducting skills changed the small community ensemble into one of the state's top orchestras.

"Under his direction the orchestra was completely transformed from a good community orchestra playing only average literature to a professional, tightly knit group of some of greater Atlanta's finest musicians playing major orchestral works from Bach, Brahms, and Beethoven to Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, and Copland," says Betsy Strauss, principal flute of the GSO.

Some of his earliest conducting experiences were with the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Florida State University orchestra. He also made a brief guest appearance with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

WHAT ORCHESTRA MEMBERS SAY

"He shows great integrity in his approach to the orchestral literature, and he expects the same of his players." - Julie Rosseter, violist,

"Maestro Sims is a wonderful conductor! His expertise in orchestral literature makes for an exciting performance in the eyes of both the musicians and the audience. His passion, skill, and musical knowledge inspire musicians to perform at their highest level." - Laura Motes, clarinet

"He has a truly expansive knowledge of all types of orchestral, as well as wind ensemble, repertoire and is extremely adept at relaying his own musical interpretations to his ensemble members. I feel that he can truly produce the very best musicianship from each and every instrumentalist with whom he works." - Mark Douglas Pye, Principal Viola

"His sense of rhythm and cadence is superb, and I can always depend on his baton during tough passages." - Jim Wade, Principal Horn

"As a leader, he has a knack for sensing other's strengths and bringing to bear a wealth of organizational skills where these abilities and strengths can be focused and used for the betterment of all." - Marion English, Principal Trumpet

CURRICULUM VITAE

- Music Director/Conductor of the Gainesville Symphony Orchestra for 18 Seasons (1986-2004)
- Raised the quality of performance of the GSO from a community ensemble to an orchestra of regional prominence
- Excels in a wide variety of repertoire from Baroque to 20th Century to film scores
- Exhibits highly effective rehearsal techniques and communication skills
- Displays clear, intelligible and musically fluent baton technique
- Demonstrates an articulate and eloquent advocacy for classical music as an art form
- Offers an obvious and infectious passion that resonates with young and old alike

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"The Gainesville Symphony Orchestra is quite simply the best small-city orchestra I have heard in my half-century of concertgoing." – Anne Madison, **The (Gainesville) Times**

"A good orchestra can have a good concert or even a few good seasons under a mediocre director, but it won't achieve 18 years of excellence without an excellent one." - Anne Madison, **The Times**

REFERENCES

Pam Slaton –

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REPERTOIRE

(Partial Listing; More Titles By Request)

Symphonies –

Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 3, 5, 6, 7
Bizet Symphony in C
Brahms Symphonies Nos. 1 and 2
Dvorak Symphonies Nos. 8 and 9
Franck Symphony in d minor
Haydn Symphonies Nos. 88 and 104
Mendelssohn Symphonies No. 5
Mozart Symphonies Nos. 34 and 41
Saint-Saens Symphony No. 3
Schubert Symphonies Nos. 5 and 8
Schumann Symphony No. 3
Shostakovich Symphony No. 1
Sibelius Symphony No. 1
Tchaikovsky Symphonies Nos. 4 and 5

Concerti/Solo works with Orchestral Accompaniment –

Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5
Debussy Danses sacree et profane for Harp & Orchestra
Faure Elegie for Cello
Rodrigo Concierto de Aranjuez for Guitar & Orchestra
Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 1
Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 in b-flat minor
Vivaldi Concerto for Two Trumpets
Malcolm Arnold Flute Concerto No. 2
Chopin Piano Concerto No.1
Khachaturian Concerto for Piano

Orchestral Works –

Respighi Pines of Rome
Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition
Copland Appalachian Spring
Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade
Bartok Romanian Folk Dances
Bloch Concerto Grosso for Strings & Orchestra
Respighi Ancient Airs and Dances Suites Nos. 1 and 3
Stravinsky Berceuse and Finale to the "Firebird"
Bizet L'Arlesienne Suite No. 1
Tchaikovsky Marche Slav
Barber First Essay for Orchestra
Mozart Eine kleine Nachtmusik
Wagner Prelude to Act III of "Lohengrin"
Grieg Suite No. 1 to "Peer Gynt"
Handel Water Music Suite

Sibelius Swan of Tuonela
Hindemith Suite to "Nobilissima visione"
Vaughan Williams Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis
Tchaikovsky Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture
Debussy Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun
Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.3 in G Major

Works for Orchestra & Chorus –

Brahms Requiem
Mozart Vesperae Solennes de Confessore

Works for Orchestra & Narrator –

Prokofiev Peter & the Wolf
Copland Lincoln Portrait