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JEANNINE WAGAR

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Jeannine Wagar is in her 6th year as Music Director/Conductor of the North Arkansas Symphony. She is also Conductor Emeritus of the North Jersey Philharmonic where she served as Music Director/Conductor from 1994-2002. She continues to advise and guest conduct the orchestra.

Wagar has conducted extensively in the U.S., Europe and Latin America. She is working with prestigious soloists such as Piotr Janowski, violinist, Awadagin Pratt, pianist, Susanne Mentzer, mezzo soprano, Sarah Chang, violinist and the Assad, guitarists. She has also worked with Cirque Orchestre and ballet companies such as the Moscow City Ballet, the Harlem Dance Theater, the James Sewell Ballet and the Tulsa Ballet. She regularly conducts concerts in New York City's Merkin Hall and has upcoming conducting engagements in Europe, including state orchestras in Sweden and Norway.

She has received international recognition in Mexico and in the Czech Republic. In Mexico she has frequently appeared as a guest conductor with noted orchestras such as the Mexican National Symphony, the Mexican State Orchestra, and the Carlos Chavez Symphony. In the Czech Republic she has conducted concerts with the Beethoven Chamber Orchestra in Opava at the Silesian Opera House and with the Bohuslav Philharmonic in Zlin.

She has an active interest in world music as well as in the new musical language appearing in the works of living composers. Wagar has conducted numerous premiere performances in San Francisco, Minneapolis and New York City, and has frequently been a guest conductor in international new music festivals. She is also known for innovative programming and for commissioning new orchestral works. She has been awarded fellowships and grants from organizations including the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Mexican/American Forum for the Arts.

Wagar's television and radio credits include hosting an Emmy-award nominated PBS special, *Music of the Americas*, which aired nationally and included audio broadcasts on Minnesota Public Radio. Her discography includes *Common Sense* (CRI), which features seven premieres by emerging young composers for large chamber ensemble, and *Ariadne Music* (OO Discs), music by Eleanor Hovda, performed by the PRISM chamber players. *Ariadne Music* received outstanding reviews in *Fanfare* magazine, the LA Times, Time Out New York, *Expose: The Outer Reaches of Rock* and numerous other new music journals and magazines. This CD is also on the playlist in 60 countries. Wagar also published a book entitled *Conductors in Conversation* (G.K.Hall/MacMillan) based on extensive interviews with 15 internationally recognized conductors.

Wagar received a doctorate in conducting from Stanford University. She has held teaching positions at Stanford University, CA, where she was Music Director of the Stanford Chamber Orchestra, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, Carleton College, MN, and Hofstra University, NY. Her teachers and coaches have included David Gilbert, Jorma Panula, Kirk Trevor, Mark Starr, Herbert Blomstedt and Stanislaw Skrowaczewski.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Ariadne Music: This CD of the music of Eleanor Hovda, performed by the New York City Prism Players and conducted by Jeannine Wagar, is a wonderful example of that “X” factor that makes certain artists transcendent and musical theorists sputter in frustration at the challenge of the evanescent perfection of art. (The composer and conductor) seem able to *listen* very intently to the “sounds” created, to hear their long-term developmental implications. The performances, conducted by Wagar, are full-bodied yet suitably fragil and transparent.

Robert Carl, FANFARE MAGAZINE

(Common Sense, a new contemporary music ensemble, New York debut performance at Roulette)
“...a new ensemble named Common Sense gave its New York debut at Roulette. Whether the name of the group, which included 10 instrumentalists expertly conducted by Jeannine Wagar, came off as pompous or refreshing depended on the music, which tended toward the latter. Seven of the eight new works by eight composers, most of the from Yale, were postminimal in style, but in a way that continually harkened back to the hallowed tradition of New England neoclassicism.

What we (in New York) could use more of is Common Sense’s infectious, eager energy and expert writing. May they return soon.”

Kyle Gann, THE VILLAGE VOICE, New York

(Thea Musgrave’s *Night Music* performed by The Women’s Philharmonic).

“Wagar led the orchestra in a remarkably mature performance of this bold and striking piece.

Marilyn Tucker, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

(Webern’s Six Pieces for Orchestra performed by the San Francisco Contemporary Players)

“Wagar conducted a transparent performance, tender, dramatic, and moving

Michael Andrews, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

(Webern’s Six Pieces for Orchestra performed by the San Francisco Contemporary Players)

“Wagar made a convincing balanced account”

Charles Shere, THE TRIBUNE, Oakland, CA

“Wagar displayed precise, expressive and communicative form....Balance and articulation among the instrumentalists were noteworthy.”

Janice Riese, PALO ALTO TIMES, CA

Jeannine Wagar - Symphonic and Opera Conductor

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(Santa Cruz County Symphony)

“the whole string section played like a factory gone mad—a vivid and surprisingly inviting image.
Jeff Hudson, REGISTER, Santa Cruz, CA

“Boyce’s symphony was nothing short of buoyant. The strings, and particularly the first violins, fleshed out the rhythmic gusto of the score; both line and accompaniment shaped smartly, the whole texture smiling with each part in its place. Wagar led from the harpsichord and the performance was none the worse, for aim was true and well-learned.

Philip Collins, SENTINEL, Santa Cruz, CA

“Wagar summoned an exciting performance from the orchestra. The score’s fleeting and complex contours were deftly textured, encompassing roars, whispers and echoes at laser pacing.

Philip Collins, SENTINEL, Santa Cruz, CA

RÉSUMÉ

Jeannine Wagar Symphonic and Opera Conductor

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Professional Conducting Positions

- North Arkansas Symphony, Music Director/Conductor, 1999-current
- North Jersey Philharmonic, Music Director/Conductor Emeritus, 1999-2002
- Kenwood Chamber Orchestra, Minneapolis, MN.
- Principal Guest Conductor of the Women's Philharmonic, San Francisco

Conductor for Guest Artists and Dance Companies (selected)

Dance:

- Moscow City Ballet
- James Sewell Ballet
- Tulsa Ballet
- Prepared Orchestra for the Harlem Dance Theater

Circus:

- Cirque Orchestra

International Guest Artists:

- Sharon Isbin, guitar
- Eduardo Fernandez, guitar
- Virginia Luque, guitar
- The Assads, Brazilian guitarists
- Scott Graham, piano
- Anthony Molinaro, piano
- Jakov Kasman, Van Cliburn Piano Competition, Silver Medalist
- Awadagin Pratt, piano
- Alan Chow, piano
- Sarah Chang, violin
- Piotr Janowski, violin
- Axel Strauss, violin
- Miles Hoffman, violist
- Clancy Newman, cello
- Susanne Mentzer, mezzo soprano
- Chitose Okashiro, piano
- Mary Rowell, violin from Tango Project (sound track from Scent of a Woman)
- Jaime Bernstein

Special Pops Concerts

- Indoor and outdoor annual Pops series with the North Arkansas Symphony
- Glen Campbell
- Musical Theater, Evita, Carousel, Carnival

Symphonic Choral Works

- Symphony No. 9 by Beethoven
- Requiem by Faure
- Carmina Burana by Orff
- Requiem by Mozart
- Gloria by Poulenc
- Out of the Depths, I Cry to You, oh Lord, by Lilli Boulanger
- Christmas Cantata by Honneger
- Messiah by Handel

National and International Performances as Guest Conductor (selected)

Traditional Repertoire:

- Mexican National Symphony Orchestra, Bellas Artes, Mexico City, Mexico
- National State Orchestra of Mexico, Tuluca, Mexico
- Santa Cruz County Symphony, Santa Cruz,

Opera:

- Night at the Opera I with the North Arkansas Orchestra with James Marvel, director
- Night at the Opera II with the North Arkansas Orchestra with James Marvel, director
- Marriage of Figaro with James Marvel, director
- Night at the Opera with Long Beach Opera, Texas
- Opava Opera, Czech Republic

New Music:

- ISCM Chamber Players, Merkin Hall, New York City, 1997, 2000, 2003
- The Locrian Chamber Players, NYC, 1997
- Frequent Guest Conductor for PRISM Chamber Orchestra, NYC, 1997-1999
- Cuicani Chamber Orchestra
- Cervantino Festival, Mexico, 1994
- Beethoven Chamber Orchestra, Czech Republic, 1994
- Bang on a Can, NYC
- Carlos Chavez Orchestra, Mexico City, Mexico
- Minnesota Composer's Forum
- San Francisco Contemporary Players, San Francisco, CA
- Frequent guest conductor for the International Festival of New Music in Mexico
- Principal Guest Conductor for the Women's Philharmonic, San Francisco, CA

Guest Speaker

- Speaker and Guest Lecturer at national clubs and fund-raising events
- Pre-concert lecture series with the North Arkansas Symphony
- Guest speaker for colloquiums at Princeton University and Stanford University on "The changing role of the symphony orchestra in the 21st century"

Academic Positions

- Full-time university teaching appointment and Professor of Orchestral Activities, Hofstra University, 94-99
- Full-time university teaching appointment and Professor of Orchestral Activities, Carleton College, 87-94
- Music Director/Conductor, Stanford University Chamber Orchestra, 1986
- Music Director/Conductor, University of California Santa Cruz Orchestra, 1984-86

- Courses taught: Music Appreciation, Music Fundamentals, 20th Music, Theory I, 20th Century Theory and 20th century Form and Analysis, Latin American Music, Conducting, and private conducting lessons.

Music Education

- Conductor of the North Arkansas Symphony's seasonal Adventure in Music Series: The North Arkansas Symphony annually gives five free educational concerts to 4800 4th graders. This year we are presenting Jaime Bernstein and a concert of her father's music.

Guest Conductor for state-sponsored student orchestras:

- Arkansas public school system orchestra conference, 2000
Division III, New York State Music Association, 1998
Region I, orchestra, New Jersey School Music Association, 1997

Special Music Education Projects

- Co-created and administrated Arkansas composition project for children with composer Eleanor Hovda which reached over 400 4th graders with multiple visits to Fayetteville schools and resulted in a group composition performed with the North Arkansas Symphony
- Multiple visits to Northwest Arkansas public schools and libraries, visiting with children and talking about the fun of conducting and playing instruments
- Educational program for New Jersey public school system that involved auditioning and rehearsing talented high school students to perform with the North Jersey Philharmonic.
- Founder and Director of Orchestra Day at Hofstra University, an educational program which annually mentored and coached over 5,000 high school musicians from New York and New Jersey

Producer

- Co-created and produced with director James Marvel, a partially staged comedy of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* with orchestra on stage with narrator
- Co-created and produced two different *Nights at the Opera* with director James Marvel
- Co-founded and administrated with composer Eleanor Hovda, the *Cuicani* Chamber Orchestra for the purpose of providing a workshop for young composers and a professional vehicle for the performance of new works, New York City, Minneapolis, St Paul, Guanajuato, Mexico at the Cervantino Festival
- Co-Director/Creator of an international conference, *The Hispanic Connection*, Hofstra University
- Co-Director/Creator of the international *Music of the Americas* Festival, Carleton College

Television

- Interviews on local networks and CAT TV, Fayetteville, AR
- Televised Ad on local networks for *Race for the Cure*
- Televised Ad for the *Democrat Gazette*, Northwest Arkansas
- Televised North Arkansas Symphony performances on CAT TV, Fayetteville
- Host for Emmy Award-nominated, nationally aired Minnesota Public TV premiere, *Showcase on Music of the Americas*
- Live Televised concerts with the Mexican National Symphony Orchestra and the Mexican State Orchestra, 20 million viewers
- Guest on "HOY MISMO", Mexico City, 20 million viewers

Radio

- 5 years of monthly interviews and music talk shows on NPR, KUAF, AR
- 5 years of North Arkansas Symphony Broadcasts on NPR, KUAF, AR
- 5 years of North Arkansas Symphony Broadcasts on Little Rock NPR Station

- 2 hour broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio featuring performances with the Carleton College Symphony Orchestra

Newspapers

- 2 major profiles in the *Democrat Gazette* and *The Northwest Arkansas Times* Newspapers
- Numerous articles about the North Arkansas Symphony in *Democrat Gazette* and *The Northwest Arkansas Times*

Grants and Awards

- Citizen of the Year from the international Lion's Club, 2004
- 2002 Trailblazer Award by Women's Service organization, Alpha kappa Alpha Sorority
- NEA Travel Grant to study Latin American Music
- Two US/Mexico Cultural Fund Grants for Musical projects featuring both countries, \$45,000. for the *Cuicani* Chamber Orchestra Project
- Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship
- Jerome Foundation Travel Grant
- NEH Summer Fellowship to study Latin American Music at University of Texas, Austin
- Minnesota Regional Arts Council

Publications

- *Conductor in Conversation: fifteen contemporary conductors discuss their profession*, G.K. Hall, 1991. 3 reprints and was sold throughout the country and in the UK by Barnes and Noble, Juilliard School Book Store, and the New York City Metropolitan Opera Book Store
- Dissertation: *Stylistic Tendencies in Three contemporary Mexican Composers: Manuel Enriquez, Mario Lavista, and Alicia Urreta*, 1985
- Article on Harmony for *Encarta* Encyclopedia
- Music Magazine Articles:
- *A Musical Analysis of Manuel Enriquez's Sonatina* for Pauta, Vol. IV, No. 14: 60-64, April 1985
- *A Musical Analysis of Mario Lavista's Ficciones* for Pauta, Vol. III, No. 9, 70-76, Jan. 1984
- Program Notes for the Cleveland Orchestra on the music of Mario Lavista

Discography

- *Ariadne Music*, Music of Eleanor Hovda, PRISM chamber orchestra, 00 Discs, 1998
- Reviews in New York Time Out, Fanfare Magazine, LA Times, Expose: Outer reaches of Rock and others. *Ariadne Music* is on the Play lists in 60 countries
- *Common Sense*: Premieres of new works for chamber ensemble by post-doctoral Yale University graduates: Halle, Reynolds, Hui Becker, Yarnell, Harsh and Mellits, CRI label, Feb. 1997

Education:

- D.M.A. in orchestral conducting Stanford University, CA 1985
- MM. in organ performance San Francisco Conservatory, 1972
- BM in organ performance San Francisco Conservatory, 1969
- Study in organ and theory Mozarteum, Salzburg, Austria, 1967

Career as Professional Organist:

- 1st place winner of American Organist League Organ Competition
- Finalist for Fulbright Competition in Organ Performance
- Concert and Church Organist

- Church Organist for Episcopal, Catholic, Unitarian, Lutheran, Synagogues, and Christian Science Churches.
- Performed services and weddings at the San Francisco Unitarian Church for sports stars, arranged Japanese weddings, Buddhist weddings, gay marriages, Red Skelton, San Francisco's China Town weddings, Christian/Hindu weddings, Christian/Jewish weddings, and Christian/Buddhist weddings.
- Studied with Robert Noerhren, University of Michigan, Herbert Nanney, Stanford University, Wyatt Insko, San Francisco Conservatory

Advanced Conducting Training

- Extensive private study with David Gilbert, Resident Conductor at the Manhattan School of Music, NYC, former Music Director of American Ballet Theater and Assistant Conductor to Leonard Bernstein and Pierre Boulez with the New York Philharmonic
- Conducting Workshops at the American Symphony Orchestra League
- Conducting Workshops with Herbert Blomstedt, Conductor Emeritus and the Dresden Symphony Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony
- Private study and work with Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Conductor Emeritus of the Minnesota Orchestra
- Conducting Workshops in Europe with Jorma Panula, renown Finnish conductor and conducting mentor

Languages:

- Fluent speaking and reading ability in Spanish
- Fluent reading ability in Italian and German

Miscellaneous Activities:

- Performer on percussion instruments and bass clarinet for Nancy Meehan Dance Company, New York City (reviewed by New York Times)
- Performed in Salsa Bands, San Francisco
- Performed as organist with pop repertoire in store windows, malls, and night clubs, San Francisco
- As a child of 10, performed organ on TV, Florida
- As a child of 2, performed as drum majorette with her grandfather's band, Canada

REFERENCES

David Gilbert, Resident conductor, Manhattan School of Music
hm. 973-667-6408

Piotr Janowski, violinist, Wieniawski Concerto Winner, 2 first place Naumberg Awards,
protégé of Heifitz,
011-47-9-573-9590
E-mail: piotrjanowski@hotmail.com

James Sewell, Artistic Director of the James Sewell Ballet Company

Marcello Anguilini, Artistic Director of the Tulsa Ballet Company

Arthur Miller, Artistic Director of the Harlem Dance Theater

Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Conductor Emeritus, Minnesota Orchestra, Halle Symphony
Orchestra, United Kingdom
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