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Michael Alexander

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Michael Alexander serves as the Music Director of the Cobb Symphony Orchestra and Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra. He also is the Orchestra Director at Kennesaw State University. Mr. Alexander has also served as Music Director of the Green Bay Youth Symphony Orchestras and as the Orchestra Director at Ripon College.

Active as a guest conductor, he has conducted in Europe, Australia and at various places in the United States, including a subscription performance with the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra in 2002, the Maikop Symphony Orchestra and the Novgorod String Orchestra in Russia, the Bacau Philharmonic in Romania and the Catania Music Festival in Italy in 2003. In the summer of 2004 he served as Music Director for the Madison Savoyards Opera Company and in 2007 as guest conductor of the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra. He has also appeared as a guest conductor with the 2001, 2003, 2005 Summer Music Clinic Orchestra at the University of Wisconsin and with the 2003-2006 Maud-Powell Music Festival Orchestra in LaSalle, IL.

In the summer of 2003 he completed his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in orchestral conducting. While at UW, he studied with David E. Becker and served as an Assistant Conductor with the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras and UW Opera. Previously he has served on the faculties at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Dedicated to music education, for two years, Mr. Alexander also conducted the Orchestra at Verona Area High School outside of Madison, Wisconsin;

served on the artistic staff of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra; and has contributed articles to the *Teaching Music Through Performance* book series. In 2006 he was the conductor for the Cobb County Honors Orchestra.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Razzle-dazzle from the Cobb Symphony Orchestra

By [Pierre Ruhe](#) | Sunday, January 22, 2006
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Saturday at the 606-seat Jennie T. Anderson Theatre, conductor Michael Alexander took microphone in hand to introduce the evening's playfully serious music, and he cued the orchestra to play key excerpts.

The plan yielded abundant dividends for Haydn's "Drum Roll" Symphony (No. 103), which opened the concert and, at the end, Hindemith's "Symphonic Metamorphosis." The audience sat rapt, even in the quiet slow movements, and everyone received wild applause.

For shrewd programming, credit Alexander, who is in his second season as Cobb music director and who also leads Kennesaw State University's orchestra. His baton technique is clear and sure... they delivered each composer's spirit with involvement and verve. Listening to Saturday's performance, the CSO seems on the ascent.

Cobb Symphony Opens Dozier

By [Pierre Ruhe](#) | Sunday, September 24, 2006
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Saturday night at the Dozier, the Cobb Symphony moved into its permanent home after 56 years with no fixed address. Proud of the venue and eager to show off the ensemble, conductor Michael Alexander programmed music first intimate, then gargantuan.

...Alexander returned with several musicians to introduce the other work on the program: Mahler's Symphony No. 5 — neurotic, voluptuous, majestic music that's risky even for professional ensembles. As a coming-of-age declaration, it was the first time in the orchestra's history that they'd ever tackled a complete Mahler symphony.

Alexander and his musicians didn't flinch or compromise, and they touched on the essence of the composer.

For the audience, it was meaty and satisfying. Alexander's conducting of a community orchestra was astonishingly good.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Current Positions

Music Director Cobb Symphony and Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestras

2004-

- Regional Orchestra in Northern Atlanta Suburb
- Budget of approximately \$500,000 (raised from \$100,000 in the last three years) and audience attendance increase of over 500% in the same period.
- Successful programs initiated to connect the CSO with the community
- Audiences have increased by over 500% in the last three years
- GYSO is the Largest Youth Orchestra Program in the Southeast with over 250 students that form four orchestras, jazz ensemble, chamber groups, and a percussion ensemble.

Director of Orchestral Activities Kennesaw State University

2004-

- Assistant Professor-Tenure Track
- Initiated the orchestral program at the school in 2004 and now has a flourishing program with approximately 60 members in the orchestra.
- Teach classes in conducting and orchestral repertoire
- Initiated Summer Music Clinic Program

Education

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Graduation Date</u>	<u>Degree</u>
University of Wisconsin-Madison	2003	Doctor of Musical Arts Orchestral Conducting
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	1997	Master of Music Instrumental Conducting
University of Georgia	1995	Music Education Magna Cum Laude

Positions Held

	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Position Description</u>
Green Bay Youth Symphony	2004	Interim Music Director
Ripon College	2002-2004	Orchestra Director Teach Music History/Conducting

Verona Area High School	2002-2004	Orchestra Director
Wisconsin Youth Symphony	2003-2004	Brass Choir Director Assistant Youth Orchestra
Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison	2000-2003	Assistant Conductor Opera, Symphony and Chamber Orchestras Graduate Fellowship Music Theory
Waukesha Area Symphonic Band	1997-2002	Music Director Advisor to the Board of Directors
Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	2000	Visiting Conductor and Professor of Low Brass
Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	1997-2000	Assistant Director of Bands Coordinator of Recruiting
Milwaukee Youth Symphony	1997-1998	Asst. Director Jr. Wind Ensemble

Guest Conducting

- Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra, LaSalle/Peru, IL; December 8-9, 2007.
- Conductor Cobb County Honor Orchestra; November 11, 2006.
- Music Director for Madison Savoyards Opera Company Summer 2004 Production of *Ruddigore* by Gilbert and Sullivan.
- Guest Conductor with the Bacau Philharmonic, Bacau, Romania with soloist Viniciu Moroianu in a program of Mozart and Beethoven; November 20, 2003.
- Conducted 2 concerts in Russia in January 2003 with the Novgorod String Orchestra (January 9) and the Maikop Symphony Orchestra (January 16).
- Guest Conductor for the 2001, 2003, 2005 University of Wisconsin-Madison Summer Music Clinic.
- Guest Conductor and Clinician at the June 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 Maud Powell Music Festivals in LaSalle, Illinois.
- Music Director/Conductor for the 2003 UW-Madison Opera/Theater production of *The Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan.
- Conducted five concerts in Spain May 21-June 2, 2001 on a tour with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Orchestra that included a performance that was broadcast on Spanish National Television at the Teatro Monumental in Madrid.
- Guest Conductor, Atlanta Wind Symphony; March 20, 2005
- Guest Conductor, Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra; March 16-17, 2002

- Presented 27 speeches in the community regarding promoting the arts in Cobb County and programming of the Cobb Symphony Orchestra over the last three years.
- Guest conductor and clinician at over 41 schools in the Atlanta area over the last three years.

Workshops and Festivals

- Conductor Participant at the 2003 Catania Summer Music Festival in Sicily, Italy; studied with Ovidiu Balan, Conductor Bacau Philharmonic, Romania and Tomasz Bugaj, Conductor Krakow Philharmonic, Poland.
- Conducted *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Moussorgsky in masterclass for Patrick Strub, Conductor of the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of the National Philharmonic of Macedonia; October 31, 2002.
- Attended 2002 Brevard Music Center Conductor's Workshop and studied with David Effron and Gunther Schuller, July 7-21, 2002
- Participant in the 1999 Northwestern University Orchestral Conducting Symposium; Northwestern University, studied with Kirk Trevor and Marius Smolij; June 1999

Over fifty clinics given to school orchestras and over twenty speaking engagements to civic organizations since 2004.

REPERTOIRE

Arutiunian, Alexander

Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra

Bach, Johann Christian

Concerto in C Minor for Viola

Bach, Johann Sebastian

Brandenburg Concerto #6

Concerto in C Min for Oboe and Violin

Bach/Stokowski

Fugue in G Minor (The Shorter)

Barber, Samuel

Adagio for Strings

Bartok, Bela

Romanian Folk Dances for Strings

Viola Concerto

Beach, Amy

Symphony in E Minor, Op.32 "Gaelic"

Beethoven, Ludwig van

Egmont Overture, Op. 84

Piano Concerto #5 "Emperor"

Symphony #1

Symphony #5

Symphony #7

Berlioz, Hector

Symphony Fantastique, Op. 14

Bernstein, Leonard

Overture to Candide

West Side Story: Symphonic Dances

Bizet, Georges

Carmen Suite #1 and 2

Jeux d'Enfants (Petite Suite), Op. 22

L'Arlesienne Suite #1 and 2

Borodin, Alexander

In the Steppes of Central Asia

Brahms, Johannes

A German Requiem, Op. 45

Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80

Hungarian Dances #1, 3, 5, 6, 10

Piano Concerto #1 in D Minor, Op. 15

Symphony #1

Variations on the St. Anthony Chorale

Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 77

Bruch, Max

Violin Concerto #1 in G Minor, Op. 26

Catalani, Alfredo

“Ebben?..Ne andro’ lontana” from *La Wally*

Catania, Michael

In the Sun

Chabrier, Emmanuel

Espana

Chaminade, Cecile

Concertino for Flute and Orchestra

Cilea, Francesco

“Io son l’umilie ancella” from *Adriana Lecouvreur*

Lamento di Federico from *L’Arlesiana*

Copland, Aaron

“Buckaroo Holiday” from *Rodeo*

Down a Country Lane

“Hoedown” from *Rodeo*

Lincoln Portrait

Music for Movies

Outdoor Overture

Corelli, Archangelo

Concerto Grosso Op. 6, #4

Concerto Grosso Op. 6, #8

Dittersdorf, Karl Ditters von

Symphonie Concertante for Viola and Double Bass

Dukas, Paul

Fanfare from "La Peri"

Dvorak, Antonin

Slavonic Dances, Op. 46, #1, 7

Symphony #8

Symphony #9

Elgar, Edward

Cello Concerto in E Minor, Op. 85

Variations on an Original Theme ("Enigma"), Op. 36

Franck, Cesar

Symphony in D Minor, Op. 48

Gershwin, George

An American in Paris

Porgy and Bess Suite

Ginastera, Alberto

Danzas del Ballet "Estancia"

Glinka, Mikhail

Ruslan and Ludmila Overture

Gould, Morton

American Salute

Grainger, Percy

Irish Tune From County Derry

Molly on the Shore

Gregson, Edward

Concerto for Tuba

Grieg, Edvard

Piano Concerto in A Minor

Sigurd Jorsalfar, Op. 56

Two Norwegian Airs

Handel, George Frederic

Messiah

Haydn, Franz Joseph

Symphony #45 "Farewell"

Symphony #103 "Drum Roll"

Harbison, John

The Most Often Used Chords

Higdon, Jennifer

blue cathedral

Hindemith, Paul

Symphonic Metamorphosis

Trauermusik for Viola and Orchestra

Holst, Gustav

St. Paul's Suite

Honneger, Arthur

Pacific 231

Hovhanness, Alan

And God Created Great Whales

Fantasy on Japanese Woodprints for Xylophone and Orchestra

Ives, Charles

The Unanswered Question

Kalnikov, Basile

Symphony #1

Khachaturian, Aram

Masquerade Suite

Kim, Yanghee

Symphony #2

Kodaly, Zoltan

Dances of Galanta

Lalo, Edouard

Concerto for Cello in D Minor

Liszt, Franz

Piano Concerto #1 in Eb Major

Mahler, Gustav

Symphony #5

Mendelssohn-Hensel, Fanny

Overture in C

Mendelssohn, Felix

Concerto in E Minor for Violin, Op. 64

Hebrides Overture

Konzertstück for Two Clarinets #1

Piano Concerto #1 in G Minor, Op. 25

Sinfonia III in E Minor

Symphony #4 "Italian"

Symphony #5 "Reformation"

Moussorgsky, Modest

Night on Bald Mountain

Pictures at an Exhibition (Ravel)

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus

Concerto for Flute and Harp, K299

Concerto for Flute, K313

Concerto for Oboe K314

Concerto for Piano, K365

Concerto for Horn, K447

Concerto for Piano, K537 "Coronation"

Concerto for Piano, K595

Concerto for Clarinet, K622

Eine Kleene Nachtmusik, K525

Overture to *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Overture to *La Clemenza di Tito*

"Non piu andrai" - *Le Nozze di Figaro*

"Batti, batti" - *Don Giovanni*

Symphony #35 "Haffner"

Nielsen, Carl

Aladdin, op. 34

Prokofiev, Sergei

Peter and the Wolf

Symphony #1 "Classical"

Puccini, Giacomo

"Chi' il bel sogno" from *La Rondine*

"Quando me'n vo" from *La Boheme*

"Che gelida manina" from *La Boheme*

Rachmaninoff, Serge

Piano Concerto #2

Ravel, Maurice

La Valse

Respighi, Ottorino

Ancient Airs and Dances, Set I

Fountains of Rome

Pines of Rome

Roman Festivals

Revueltas, Silvestre

Sensemaya

Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolay

Capriccio Espagnol

Scheherazade

Rodrigo, Joaquin

Concerto de Aranjuez

Fantasia para un Gentilhombre

Rosauro, Ney

Concerto for Marimba and Strings

Rossini, Gioachino

Overture to *Barber of Seville*

Overture to *La Gazza Ladra*

Overture to *William Tell*

“Una voce poco fa” - *Barber of Seville*

Rutter, John

Suite for Strings

Saint-Saens, Camille

Carnival of the Animals

Concerto #1 for Cello in A Minor

Introduction et Rondo Capriccioso

Sarasate, Pablo de

Carmen Fantasy, Op. 25

Schubert, Franz

Rondo, D438

Symphony #8 “Unfinished”

Schumann, Robert

Piano Concerto in A Minor, Op. 54

Symphony #3 “Rhenish”

Shostakovich, Dmitri
Festive Overture, Op. 96
Symphony #5

Sibelius, Jean
Finlandia
Rakastava, Op. 14

Still, William Grant
Afro-American Symphony

Strauss, Johann
Emperor Waltz
Rosen aus dem Suden
Wine, Women, and Song

Strauss, Richard
Horn Concerto #1 in Eb Major, Op. 11

Stravinsky, Igor
Firebird Suite (1919)
L'Histoire du soldat
Suite #2 for Small Orchestra

Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilyich
1812 Overture
Capriccio italien, Op. 45
The Nutcracker (complete)
Piano Concerto #1 in Bb Minor, Op. 23
Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture
Serenade in C, Op. 48
Symphony #5
Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 35

Telemann, Georg Philip
Viola Concerto in D Major

Vaughan-Williams, Ralph
Fantasia on "Greensleeves"
Five Variants on "Dives and Lazarus"
The lark ascending

Verdi, Giuseppe
Hymn and Triumphal March from *Aida*

Vivaldi, Antonio

Concerto for Mandolin in C Major
“Summer” from *The Seasons*, RV315

Wagner, Richard

Overture to *Rienzi*
Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde*
Siegfried-Idyll

Waldteufel, Emil

Les Patineurs

Wang, Jian Min

Rhapsody #1 for Erhu and Orchestra

Warlock, Peter

Capriol Suite

Warshauer, Meira

Yiddish Fantasy

Williams, John

Concerto for Tuba

Woodward James

A Little Southern Hospitality
Piano Concerto “Downey’s Groove”

Zwilich, Ellen Taaffe

Concerto for Bassoon and Orchestra

Operas Performed

Menotti, Gian Carlo

The Old Maid and the Thief

Offenbach, Jaques

Orpheus in the Underworld

Puccini, Giacomo

Gianni Schicchi

Sullivan, Arthur

The Mikado
Ruddigore

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SAMPLE PROGRAMS

2007-2008 Season

September 15 and 16, 2007

Kodaly: Dances of Galanta

Ravel: La Valse

Vivaldi: Concerto for Mandolin

Respighi: Pines of Rome

November 10 and 11, 2007

Brahms: Variations on the St. Anthony
Chorale

Haydn: Symphony #45 "Farewell"

Honegger: Pacific 231

Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto #1

February 23 and 24, 2008

Gershwin: An American in Paris

Wang: Rhapsody for Erhu and Orchestra

Liszt: Piano Concerto #1 in Eb Major

Stravinsky: Firebird Suite (1919)

April 19 and 20, 2008

Still: Afro-American Symphony

Beethoven: Symphony #9

2006-2007 Season

September 23 and 24, 2006

Vivaldi: Concerto in Bb for Violin and
Cello

Mahler: Symphony #5

November 18 and 19, 2006

Mozart: Marriage of Figaro Overture

Higdon: blue cathedral

Brahms: A German Requiem

February 24-25, 2007

Wagner: Prelude to Act I of Die
Meistersinger von Nurnberg

Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto

Barber: Adagio for Strings

Elgar: "Enigma" Variations

April 14 and 15, 2007

Rossini: Barber of Seville Overture
Grieg: Piano Concerto in A Minor
Shostakovich: Symphony #5

2005-2006 Season

October 1 and 2, 2005

Chabrier: Espana
Mozart: Concerto for Two Pianos, K365
Berlioz: Symphony Fantastique

January 21 and 22, 2006

Haydn: Symphony #103 "Drum Roll"
Peck: The Glory and the Grandeur
Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphosis

March 25 and 26, 2006

Copland: Appalachian Spring
Strauss: Horn Concerto #1
Gershwin: "Summertime" from *Porgy
And Bess*
Bernstein: Symphonic Dances from
West Side Story

April 29 and 30, 2006

Ginastera: Estancia Ballet Suite
Williams: Concerto for Tuba
Beethoven: Symphony #5

2004-2005 Season

October 5, 2005

Shostakovich: Festive Overture
Moussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition

January 30, 2005

Bach/Stokowski: Little Fugue in G
Minor
Mozart: Concerto for Flute and Harp
Mendelssohn: Symphony #5
"Reformation"

April 2, 2005

Dukas: Fanfare "La Peri"
Beethoven: Piano Concerto #5
"Emperor"
Tchaikovsky: Symphony #5