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# Steven Karidoyanes Conductor



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Steven Karidoyanes

## BIOGRAPHY

As a conductor, composer and broadcaster, Boston native **Steven Karidoyanes** brings a wealth of musical experiences to the podium.

This is Mr. Karidoyanes' 13th season as Conductor and Music Director of the [Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra](#), a professional orchestra on Boston's historic South Shore. There is continued praise for the level of distinction to which he has brought the orchestra. One reviewer said "The performance by the Plymouth Philharmonic...was excellent" and "the program was so lively that it proved impossible to sneak away..." (Richard Dyer, Boston Globe, October 8, 2004). He is also the newly appointed Music Director of [Masterworks Chorale](#); Conductor of the [New England Conservatory Youth Symphony](#); and on the Conducting Staff of the Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra (GBYSO).

He has held the posts of Music Director of the Boston College Symphony Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony and Greensboro Symphony orchestras in North Carolina, and Assistant Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic. He has conducted many subscription, pops, educational and family concerts, as well as annual ballet performances of *The Nutcracker* with the North Carolina School of the Arts. He served on the faculty of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute for ten seasons, and on the conducting faculty of the New England Conservatory.

Last season he conducted Hungary's Savaria Symphony Orchestra in Hainburg, Austria, near Vienna, and Cape Cod Opera's production of *The Mikado*. Past guest conducting engagements include the Prague (CZ) Symphony Chamber Orchestra, the Syracuse Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, and orchestras in the Washington, D.C. region.

Complementing his performing activities, Mr. Karidoyanes is also a composer and member of ASCAP. His recent composition, *Yerakina: Dionysian Dance for Orchestra*, was written for and premiered by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. His *Café Neon: Fantasy on Greek Songs and Dances* has been performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony and by orchestras in California, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Wisconsin, Italy and Greece. It receives its New Jersey premiere this season. His cantata, *Cherished Youth*, was twice choreographed by the Commonwealth Ballet (MA). A classical music announcer/producer, Mr. Karidoyanes is a frequent fill-in host for Boston's WGBH Radio, and has worked for National Public Radio affiliates in North Carolina and Indiana.

Steven Karidoyanes holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from Boston University. He received training in orchestral conducting at the Canford School of Music in Dorset, England, where he studied with the renowned British conducting coach, George Hurst. Additional orchestral studies earned him the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for two consecutive years from Ball State University in Indiana.

Mr. Karidoyanes lives in Boston with his wife, Amy, and their two sons, Michael and Nicholas.

Steven Karidoyanes

## CRITICAL ACCLAIM

*The performance by the Plymouth Philharmonic...was excellent, and the account of Debussy's "Fêtes" that opened the program was so lively that it proved impossible to sneak away after the Turiot ["Les Paons (The Peacocks)"]. Both Faure's "Pavane" and Debussy's "La Mer" were well worth sticking around for.*  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

*The ending of the movement was beautifully controlled by Karidoyanes' delicate touch.*  
THE WASHINGTON POST

*The Plymouth orchestra's performance was superb... ..a fitting expression of the level of excellence to which Karidoyanes has brought the orchestra during his 10 seasons as its leader.*  
THE PATRIOT LEDGER Quincy MA

*The orchestra was led through some impressive dynamic sweeps by Karidoyanes, who was in complete control throughout.*  
THE PRINCE WILLIAM JOURNAL Prince William County VA

*As Karidoyanes ended the piece with his fist tightly clenched, the hall was filled with a rare sense that a special moment had just occurred, one that can't be bottled or preserved.*  
THE ENTERPRISE Brockton MA

*...Karidoyanes conducted with unobtrusive expertise...*  
CAPE COD TIMES

Of Gustav Holst's The Planets:  
*...this performance of "Jupiter" was particularly outstanding. One could wait a long time before hearing as well conceived and beautifully controlled performance...*  
GREENSBORO NEWS AND RECORD

*You don't have to go to Boston to hear a great Holiday Pops concert...*  
THE ENTERPRISE Brockton MA

*...Karidoyanes showed that he knew how to keep his toe-tapping young audience both engaged and edified while keeping his players on their musical toes.*  
SYRACUSE HERALD JOURNAL

## Steven Karidoyanes

*Steven Karidoyanes, the BCSO's [Boston College Symphony Orchestra] dynamic conductor of five years, strives to make the students not only play with correct intonation, but also with their hearts.*

THE HEIGHTS Boston College

# *Café Neon:* Fantasy on Greek Songs & Dances

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*"The audience response was absolutely overwhelming. In both cities we had numerous people coming back stage to ask about the piece and the composer."*

-- Chris Younghoon Kim, conductor, describing

*Café Neon* performances in Rhodes and Athens, Greece.

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## *Café Neon: Fantasy on Greek Songs and Dances (2000)*

by Steven Karidoyanes      ASCAP

*Program Notes by the composer* [revised: 13 January 2005]

*Café Neon* owes its form and existence to the 20th century Hungarian composer, Zoltán Kodály. When I first conducted Kodály's *Galánta Dances* I was immediately taken by the music's passion and color and wished there was a Greek equivalent which would gratify my Hellenic heritage. *Café Neon* now fills that personal void.

Although utilizing entirely different melodic material, *Café Neon* follows the formal structure of *Galánta* fairly closely and, like *Galánta*, features the orchestra's principal clarinet. This was a natural choice as the clarinet is such a prominent instrumental voice in Greek music. Two of the four melodies used were performed by The Trio Bel Canto, a Greek popular music ensemble working in the 1960's, '70's and '80's. The first of these melodies is a hauntingly beautiful tune entitled *Káthe Limáni ke Kaimós* (Heartache in Every Port). Just as Kodály constructed *Galánta*, portions of this melody return throughout *Café Neon* as unifying thematic material. The second Trio Bel Canto theme is a spirited dance in a characteristically infectious meter unmistakably of Greek derivation, *Sou Tópa miá, ke dhió, ke trís* (I Told You Once, Twice and Thrice). The third melody is a slow, seductive, traditional air entitled *I Skláva* (The Slave Girl).

The presto conclusion of *Café Neon* was inspired by *The Averof* of Cambridge, a, now defunct, Greek and Middle Eastern restaurant and night club. On Sunday evenings, a Greek harmonica virtuoso accompanied by the *Averof* house band would play, what I came to call, sizzling "modal jam sessions." The finale of *Café Neon* includes my recollection of one of these incredible evenings.

All the musical ideas in this work have been synthesized through my experiences as a Greek-American. In addition to my memories of the *Averof*, I recall my mother singing the "hauntingly beautiful" melody mentioned earlier while my family was vacationing in Greece during the summer of 1965. She later played for me a Trio Bel Canto recording which included that melody and the jaunty dance I would also work into *Café Neon*. While attending a Greek school in Boston as a child, I often heard *I Skláva* as the accompaniment to a dance we were to learn -- the very traditional *tsámiko*.

## Steven Karidoyanes

The title, by the way, evolved naturally. As a fantasy piece, I was trying to find a word which would evoke images of a smoke-filled tavern or coffee bar. I wasn't too inspired by the title *Tavérna*. *Kafeníon* is Greek for coffee bar. *Café Neon* became the Americanization of *Kafeníon*. *Café Neon* was commissioned by Yoichi Udagawa and the Quincy (MA) Symphony Orchestra and was first performed with that orchestra under my direction on November 17, 2000. *Café Neon* is lovingly dedicated to my parents, Michael and Tula Karidoyanes.

-- Steven Karidoyanes

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### ***About the composer...***

A native of Boston, conductor, composer and broadcaster **Steven Karidoyanes** brings rich and varied musical experiences to his endeavors.

A composer and member of ASCAP, his *Café Neon: Fantasy on Greek Songs and Dances* was recently performed by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. Since its premiere November 2000, *Café Neon* has had over a dozen performances by orchestras in Massachusetts, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, California, Italy and Greece. His cantata, *Cherished Youth*, was again choreographed by the Commonwealth Ballet (MA) in March 2004.

Mr. Karidoyanes is the conductor of the [Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra](#), a professional orchestra on Boston's historic south shore. He is also the conductor of the [New England Conservatory Youth Symphony](#), an orchestra of advanced pre-college musicians. On April 22nd, 2006 he conducts the music of Mozart and Haydn with Hungary's Savaria Symphony Orchestra in Hainburg, Austria. Past guest conducting engagements include the Prague (CZ) Symphony Chamber Orchestra in a September 2003 all-Mozart program, the Syracuse Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, and orchestras in the Washington, D.C. region. His performances have been called "excellent" (*The Boston Globe*) and "beautifully controlled" (*The Washington Post*). He has held the posts of Music Director of the Boston College Symphony Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony and Greensboro Symphony orchestras in North Carolina, and Assistant Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic. Mr. Karidoyanes has served as a conductor and coach with the Young Artists Programs of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute for ten seasons, and has served on the conducting faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music.

As a classical music announcer/producer, Steven Karidoyanes is a fill-in host for Boston's WGBH radio. He has also worked for National Public Radio affiliates in North Carolina and Indiana.

Steven Karidoyanes holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from Boston University. He received training in orchestral conducting at the Canford School of Music in Dorset, England, where he studied with the renowned British conducting coach, George Hurst. He lives in Boston with his wife Amy and their two sons, Michael and Nicholas.

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### ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

Steven Karidoyanes

*Born: 5 November 1957*

*Boston, Massachusetts*

*More information may be found on Steven Karidoyanes' personal website:*

[www.orchestraconductor.com](http://www.orchestraconductor.com)

### ***Café Neon performance details, to date:***

Premiered November 17th, 2000 by the Quincy (MA) SO

Quincy (MA) SO: May 19, 2001 [2nd performance in same season]

Mission Chamber Orchestra, San Jose, CA: October 6, 2001

Tufts University (MA) SO Concert Tour to

## Steven Karidoyanes

Rhodes & Athens, Greece, January 2002

Warren (MI) SO: April 2002

Plymouth (MA) Philharmonic: April 27 & 28, 2002

Melrose (MA) SO: May 4, 2002

Boston's Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra: February 14 & 16, 2003

[as part of their 25th Anniversary Season]

Duluth-Superior (MN) SO: June 28, 2003 performance at the

Lucius Woods Performing Arts Center, Solon Springs, Wisconsin

Mission Chamber Orchestra, San Jose, CA:

Tour to Italy, June-July 2003

Pittsburgh (PA) SO: February 5, 2005 [Family Concert]

Columbus Indiana Philharmonic: October 8, 2005

Mission Chamber Orchestra, San Jose, CA: February 4, 2006

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Conductor response to *Café Neon*, as written in *Orchestralist*, an ongoing internet dialogue for orchestra professionals:

*"The piece consists of Greek melodies, features the clarinet with several solos, and has some fast sections that are downright fun. I used it as the first piece on my season opener. Both audience and musicians loved it."*

Emily Ray, conductor

Mission Chamber Orchestra, San Jose, CA

*"The students absolutely adored playing the piece. The audience response was absolutely overwhelming. In both cities we had numerous people coming back stage to ask about the piece and the composer...I was honored to be a part of the European Premiere of this wonderful piece."*

Chris Younghoon Kim, interim conductor

Tufts University (MA) Symphony Orchestra

**Steven Karidoyanes**

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **GUEST CONDUCTOR [abridged list]**

Savaria (Hungary) Symphony Orchestra  
(Hainburg, Austria). April 2006  
Prague Symphony Chamber Orchestra  
(Czech Rep.). September 2003  
Syracuse (NY) Symphony. May 1995, February 1991, October 1989  
Rochester (NY) Philharmonic Orchestra. April 1990  
Masterworks Chorale (Boston). March 2005  
Cape Cod Opera (MA). August 2006  
Cape Ann (MA) Symphony. August/November 1999  
Symphony by the Sea (MA). July 1999 - May 2000  
Winston-Salem (NC) Symphony. February/June/July 1998  
Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra. May 1998, May 1997  
Cape Cod (MA) Symphony Orchestra. January 1996  
New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra. June 1992  
Arlington (VA) Symphony. November 1991  
Prince William (VA) Symphony Orchestra. March 1990  
Alexandria (VA) Symphony Orchestra. March 1988, December 1987

### **EXPERIENCE**

#### **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

##### **Plymouth (MA) Philharmonic Orchestra April 1994 - Present**

A professional, per-service orchestra on Boston's historic South Shore. Program and conduct Subscription, Pops, Family, Education and Runout Concerts. Acknowledged artistic growth during this tenure includes contracted performances from Boston to Cape Cod.

#### **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

##### **New England Conservatory Youth Symphony August 2004 - Present**

Conduct orchestra of advanced pre-college musicians in Jordan Hall/Boston performances. Led concert tour to Italy, June '05.

#### **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

##### **Masterworks Chorale May 2006 - Present**

An accomplished chorus and professional orchestra exploring the choral/orchestral repertoire of the masters. Serving the greater Boston area.

#### **CONDUCTING STAFF**

##### **Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras September 2005 - Present**

Conductor of Repertory Chamber Orchestras. Conduct rehearsals and sectionals as necessary.

#### **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

## Steven Karidoyanes

### **Boston College Symphony Orchestra (MA) August 1992 - June 1999**

Programmed and conducted concerts. Oversaw artistic development of the University Orchestra Program. Instructed private studio lessons in conducting.

### **ASSOCIATE / ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR**

**Rhode Island Philharmonic August 1992 - July 1994**

**Winston-Salem (NC) Symphony September 1988 - June 1991**

### **Greensboro (NC) Symphony Orchestra August 1986 - June 1990**

Programmed and conducted Subscription Concerts, Pops and Family Concert Series, Education, Community Outreach, Summer and Run-Out Concerts, plus annual performances of *The Nutcracker* with the North Carolina School of the Arts School of Dance.

### **FACULTY POSTS [abridged list]**

#### **Boston University Tanglewood Institute, *Program Director* May 1991 - August 1991**

Coordinated all aspects of the Young Artists Instrumental Program and the Young Artists Orchestra. Conducted rehearsals and sectionals as necessary.

#### **New England Conservatory, Boston, MA, *Conducting Faculty* July 1985 - June 1986**

Taught private studio lessons for first year masters candidates in conducting and undergraduate conducting course. Led various ensembles.

#### **Boston University Tanglewood Institute, *Conductor/Coach* May 1977 - August 1985**

Conductor and coach of various ensembles. Premiered original compositions with Institute ensembles during Tanglewood-on-Parade festivities for two consecutive seasons.