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Anthony LaGruth

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Anthony LaGruth holds a Bachelor's Degree in composition from Montclair State University where he was a two time recipient of the Edna McEhearn Prize for Musical Achievement.

While earning a Master's Degree in Conducting at Ithaca College, he served as assistant conductor of the school's orchestra under Pamela Gerhart, founder of the Buffalo Youth Orchestra.

He has also studied at the world renowned Pierre Monteux School for Conductors where he was a conducting fellow under the tutelage of Charles Bruck, former music director of the Paris Radio Orchestra. Following Bruck's death, Mr. LaGruth was one of the first recipients of the Charles Bruck Memorial Prize.

Mr. LaGruth has worked with some of the greatest composers of our age, including Hans Werner Henze, John Corigliano, and Pulitzer Prize winner Karel Husa, preparing their works under their supervision.

He has also participated in master classes given by such notables as Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, and in workshops with master teachers Max Rudolf, Gunther Schuller and Murray Sidlin

CURRICULUM VITAE

Conducting Positions

Garden State Philharmonic, NJ; Artistic Director and Conductor: 2000-present

A professional orchestra on New Jersey's central coast, the GSP presents 15 concerts per season consisting of Masterworks, Pops, and Educational programs. Budget of \$450 K.

- Led transition of ensemble from semi-professional to fully professional.
- Assisted in creation and implementation of fundraising and development program that has resulted in a 38% budget increase over six years.
- Subscription and single ticket sales have increased 22% over the past three seasons.
- Co-Creator of the highly acclaimed Ford Made in America commissioning project. First commission, Joan Tower's Made In America won the Grammy for Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

Lyric Opera of San Antonio, TX; Music Director and Conductor: 2002-2007

A professional opera company mounting three fully staged productions per season. Assist with repertoire selection and casting. Oversee musical preparation of artists, rehearsal of orchestra and conduct performances. Budget of \$800 K

- Created/ hosted highly popular pre-concert program, Musically Speaking
- Guest host of K-PAC's Classical Spotlight prior to each production

American Opera Music Theater, NY; Associate Conductor: 2001

Multi-state tour of La Boheme. Assist with musical preparation of artists and conduct performances.

Plainfield Symphony Orchestra, NJ; Associate Conductor: 1997-2000

A semi-professional, per service orchestra. Conducted pops programs. Programmed and conducted education programs serving 1000 inner city children.

Guest Conducting

Livingston Symphony Orchestra, NJ; Guest Conductor: 2005

Filarmonica de Stat Botosani, Romania; Guest Conductor: 2005

Opera Teatro de Stat Galati, Romania; Guest Conductor: 2005

Filarmonica de Stat Satu Mare "Dinu Lipatti", Romania; Guest Conductor; 2005

Filarmonica de Stat Valcea "Ion Dumitrescu", Romania; Guest Conductor; 2005

Cortlandt Chamber Orchestra, NY; Guest Conductor: 2004

Putnam Valley Philharmonic, NY; Guest Conductor: 2003

Alcala Symphony Orchestra, CA; Guest Conductor: 1995

Education/Professional Training

Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY; Master of Music in Conducting: 1990

Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ; Bachelor of Music in Composition: 1988

Pierre Monteux School for Conductors, Hancock, ME; Conducting Fellow
New York Philharmonic Conductors Symposia, NY; Lorin Maazel, Mstislav
Rostropovich, Kurt Masur

Conducting Workshops; Master Teachers: Max Rudolf, JoAnn Falletta, Gunther
Schuller, Murray Sidlin, Michael Charry, Catherine Comet

Master Classes: Zubin Mehta, Hugh Wolff

American Symphony Orchestra League Orchestral Leadership Academy Seminars

- Developing Institutional Vision
- Artistic Planning for Conductors and Artistic Administrators
- Building Effective Cross-Functional Teams
- Managing Critical transitions

Scholarship/Prizes

2008 ENCORE Award, South Jersey Cultural Alliance

Charles Bruck Conducting Fellowship, Pierre Monteux School

Graduate Assistantship in Orchestral Conducting, Ithaca College

Edna McEchearn Prize, Montclair State University (two time winner)

Affiliations

Conductors Guild, Inc. Member of the Board of Directors, Annual Conference
Committee Chair, Conducting Workshop Committee

The International Gustav Mahler Society

American Federation of Musicians, Local 802

New York Brass Conference for Scholarship, Brass Quintet Competition Adjudicator

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

There was a sense of confidence in nearly every phrase of LaGruth's interpretation, a complete security in where the work has been and where it was headed. The musicians were clearly devoted to his vision and played for all they were worth.

The Asbury Park Press
Asbury Park, New Jersey

Conductor Anthony LaGruth brought crisp definition, dramatic sensitivity and stylishly flexible tempos to the score.

San Antonio Express-News
San Antonio, Texas

The orchestra, the young soloist, and the last minute conductor all responded to the potentially difficult situation, fitting together precisely to present a magnificent performance. Mr. LaGruth came through in a crisis. His rapport with the young audience was nothing less than amazing.

West Essex Tribune
Livingston, New Jersey

Music Director Anthony LaGruth conducted in a relaxed style that allowed the singers to execute their florid lines comfortably. The orchestra responded well and the lightness on the stage was echoed in the pit.

Opera Japonica

The conductor, Anthony LaGruth, displayed control, musicality, and a deep level of involvement with the music from the first note of the concert to the last. LaGruth conducted in a strong, clear, and effective manner.

The Alcala Park Gazette
La Jolla, California

Worth plaudits is the Music Director, Anthony LaGruth. This bright, young conductor brings a dynamic excitement to the (Garden State) Philharmonic podium. The old saying, "a new broom sweeps clean" was never truer; this conductor's broom swept its audience off its feet.

The Asbury Park Press
Asbury Park, New Jersey

Conductor Anthony LaGruth led the orchestra with subtlety and a refined sense of style. He let the orchestra loose after the intermission in Khachaturian's Sabre Danse, yet had great control when needed. He did a fine job of shaping the phrase and led with spirit throughout the performance.

The Ellsworth American
Ellsworth, Maine

REFERENCES

Neal Gittleman; Music Director, Dayton Philharmonic; (937) 294-6634
nealgitt@aol.com

Craig Sorgi; Concert Master, Lyric Opera of San Antonio, San Antonio Symphony;
(210) 259-7258 csorgi@satx.rr.com

Christopher Collins Lee; Violin Soloist, Former Concert Master, New Jersey Symphony
Orchestra; (973) 484-5558 CCLviolin@aol.com

Lynda Rabens; President, Garden State Philharmonic, (609) 660-9599
Lynrab@comcast.net

Mark A, Richter; General Director, Lyric Opera of San Antonio; (210) 225-5972
Mark.Richter@saopera.com

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

An Invitation to Dance
Hungarian Dance No. 1 Brahms
Café Neon (NJ Premier) Steven Karidoyanes
Dances of Galanta Kodaly
Symphony No. 7, Op 92 Beethoven

Pretty as a Picture
Hungarian Sketches Bartok
Voices from the Gallery (NJ Premier) Stephen Paulus
Pictures at an Exhibition Mussorgsky

- Program included projections of art work during the works
- Juried art show at intermission and following the concert
- Artist from community painted a picture of orchestra during the concert, which was then auctioned at the art show

1000 and One Nights
Overture to Ali Babba Cherubini
Sheherezade for voice and orchestra Ravel
Scheherezade, Op 35 Rimski-Korsakov

Shakespeare in Love...with the GSP
King Lear Berlioz
Othello Dvorak
Midsummernight's Dream Mendelssohn
Macbeth (NJ Premier) William Henry Fry
Romeo and Juliet fantasy Overture Tchaikovsky

- Program featured collaboration with local theater company performing scenes from the plays
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Made In America
Candide Overture Bernstein
Made in America (NJ Premier) Joan Tower
An American in Paris Gershwin
Four Dance episodes from Rodeo Copland

The Glorious and the Beautiful
Overture to Egmont, Op 84 Beethoven
For A Beautiful Land (NJ Premier) Linda Robbins Coleman
Symphony No. 2, Op 73 Brahms
The Dvorak Effect

Northern Ballad Horatio Parker
Elegy George Chadwick
Dance In Place Congo Henry Gilbert
Symphony No. 9 Antonin Dvorak

Young Peoples Concerts

Meet Mr. Beethoven

Coriolan Overture

Adagio molto from Symphony No. 1

Andante con moto from Symphony No. 5

Allegro con brio from Symphony No. 5

“Ode to Joy” from Symphony No.9 (arranged)

- Featuring a chorus of young people from the Toms River School District
- The program included sessions in the schools discussing Beethoven, his family life, his disability, and his role in society

Space...the Final Frontier

Fanfare from Also sprach Zarethustra Strauss

3, 2, 1...Blast OFF! (NJ Premier) Dan Dorff

Excerpt from The Planets Holst

Star Wars Williams

- Cross curricular program co developed by science and music teachers, targeted at students studying astronomy in general science.
- Classroom components included science teachers linking music elements and vice versa.

The Composer's Toolbox

Symphony No. 5 (excerpts) Beethoven

Steppes of Central Asia Borodin

Capriccio Espagnol (excerpts) Rimski-Korsakov

- Program developed to introduce children to musical building blocks and the various elements (ie: orchestration, harmony, melody) available to a composer as he builds a piece of music.
- Classroom components included students “composing” a piece by making certain choices. Guidance was provided by teaching artist