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Gordon Mason

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Mason teaches both graduate and undergraduate conducting at Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, PA and conducts the college Wind Ensemble. Dr. Mason is highly regarded as a music educator and conductor, having served as the Associate Conductor of the Bob Jones University (SC) Symphony Orchestra, conducting a wide range of repertoire from opera to classical standards. He has collaborated with recording artist Emile Pandolfi in a Pops Concert with an audience of over 2000 in attendance. Dr. Mason has guest-conducted high school and university bands in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Colorado, in addition to his home state of South Carolina and was chosen to give a conducting master class for the South Carolina Music Educators Association in 2000. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Instrumental Conducting from the University of South Carolina in 1994. Other conducting engagements include collaboration with nationally-known composer Eric Ewazen (Julliard School of Music)

Dr. Mason was Director of Choral Ensembles at Bob Jones Academy in Greenville, South Carolina for 12 years, serving as department chair for 11 years. His choral ensembles received statewide recognition, placing first in the AA and AAA divisions of the South Carolina Choral Festival for two consecutive years. His students joined approximately 200 other singers from the United States and Canada for a performance of Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* at Carnegie Hall in New York City in May, 2001. The Academy Honors Chorale was invited to debut in their own recital at Carnegie Hall in May 2003. During this time, he also mentored Erika Powell, the 2005 winner of the Miss South Carolina Pageant.

Dr. Mason has a broad range of experience as a recording studio producer, having recently produced recordings for Soundforth, the music division of the Bob Jones University Press and for Baptist Bible College. He performs regularly with the Northeast Philharmonic Orchestra and formerly held the position of second trumpet with the Greenville (SC) Symphony. Dr. Mason is a founding member of the Aurora Brass Quintet, as has performed with them throughout the Southeast and Northern Italy. He is a current member of the Conductor's Guild, SCMEA, and MENC.

Dr. Mason resides in Clarks Summit, PA with his wife and daughter.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Summary

Confident and dependable with a strong ability to bring groups of people together, gain consensus and accomplish shared goals. Energetic and organized. Able to support a larger mission while implementing detailed and innovative programs. Noted for consistency and clarity in direction. Students and colleagues enjoy timely feedback and constant encouragement to cultivate their own potential. Performance and pedagogical skills are highly acclaimed by professional peers as well as undergraduate and graduate students.

Objective

Contribute to the growth of a world-class educational environment that places emphasis on personal development and professional accomplishment. Provide exceptional leadership as a conductor, music educator and member of the music community.

Degrees Earned

- 1994 Doctor of Musical Arts in Instrumental Conducting, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. Student of Donald Portnoy (Orchestra) and Larry Wyatt (Choral). *Magna cum laude*
- 1975 Masters of Arts in Instrumental Conducting and Sacred Music, Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC. Student of Dwight Gustafson. *Magna cum Laude*
- 1969 Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and Trumpet, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH
Student of Bernard Sanchez.

Experience

Chair, Department of Music, Baptist Bible College and Graduate School, Clarks Summit, PA

June 2005 – Present

- Establish a Graduate Music Education degree and serve as faculty
- Found and train a Recruitment Team to expand the Vocal and Instrumental Programs (Maintaining a 28-week year-round schedule.)
- Initiate, conduct, and take fiscal responsibility for BBC's annual public performance of Handel's *Messiah* within the City of Scranton, featuring an 80-voice choir and professional chamber orchestra
- Serve the Committees for the General Studies Division and the Professional Ministry Academic Division.

Conductor and Full Professor, Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit, PA

June 2003 – Present

- Conduct the College Wind Ensemble
- Teach Conducting to Graduate and Undergraduate music majors
- Serve as Student Teacher Supervisor
- Successfully conduct a major revision of Undergrad Music Education curriculum following the PA Department of Education Guidelines
- Teach Instrumental Methods and Aural Skills

Conductor and Professor, Bob Jones University and Academy, Greenville SC

- June 1989 – May 2003
- Conductor, University Orchestra
 - Graduate and Undergraduate Conducting Professor
 - Education Faculty and Certified Student Teacher Observer
 - Certified Student Teacher Observer for 10 years
 - Music Coordinator and Director of Choral Ensembles (Academy)
 - Created opportunity for Academy Choir to perform at Carnegie Hall and subsequently invited to return as conductor of 200-voice Mass Choir

Music Instructor, Toledo Public School System, Toledo OH

- 1969-1972
- Taught Instrumental Music, Grades 4 through 12
 - Assistant Band Director, Rogers High School

Professional Associations

- October 2004-Present** **Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic Orchestra**
Trumpet, Classical Subscription and Pops Concerts Series
- Spring 2006** **PA-District 9 Music Festival**
Guest Conductor for 80-piece High School Band
- 2004 - 2006** **Middle Atlantic Christian School Association**
Delivered numerous workshops (by invitation) in Music Education and Performance
- Summer 2000, 2002** **South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts**
Instructor in conducting, music theory, music history
Brass adjudicator for statewide auditions from 1992-2002
- 2000-2001** **Conducted award-winning composer Eric Ewazen's**
(Juilliard School of Music) *Concerto for Trumpet* and received his personal letter of recommendation following our collaboration.
- 2000** **South Carolina Music Educators Association**
Invited to lead a Conducting Master Class
- 1991-2003** **Aurora Brass Quintet**
As a founding member, we received funding from the South Carolina Arts Commission. In 1992 and 1993 Aurora was the Quintet-in-Residence at the Spoleto Music Festival (Charleston, SC). In June, 1993 and June 1995, we performed at the International Brass Symposium in Verona, Italy.
- March 1999** **Bob Jones University Opera Association**
Conductor, *The Barber of Seville (Rossini)* with professional guest soloists and orchestra
Directed auditions, trained soloists and understudies

- June 1998** **Furman University**—Robert Shaw Festival Singers
Study with Robert Shaw and the Robert Shaw Festival Singers
- May 1998** **Conductor's Institute of South Carolina at "Spoleto" USA**
Intensive opera workshop directed by Donald Portnoy working with professional soloists and orchestra
- 1994-1998** **Carolina Youth Symphony**
Associate Conductor of 90-piece regional youth orchestra
- July 1997** **Illinois State University**—Conductor's Guild Workshop
Awarded grant from the Metropolitan Arts Council, Greenville, SC.
Studied orchestral conducting with Kenneth Keisler
- 1992-1993** **University of South Carolina**
Graduate Assistantship, Assistant Orchestra Conductor
Opera Conductor – *The Secret Marriage (Cimmarosa)*
- July 1992** **Conductor's Institute of South Carolina**
Conducting Instructor
- Summer 1992** **Conductor's Institute of South Carolina, Columbia, SC**
Conducting fellow with Donald Portnoy and Harold Farberman
- 1988-1991** **Greenville Symphony Orchestra**
Second Trumpet
- 1972-1979** **Bob Jones University**
Conductor of Brass Ensemble and Trumpet instructor (graduate and undergraduate)
- Summer 1974** **Interlochen Center for the Arts**
National Music Camp – University Orchestra, Second Trumpet.
Studied trumpet with Leon Rapiere
- 1966-1970** **Toledo Symphony Orchestra**
4th Trumpet. Performed under Sergé Fournier and Arthur Feidler.
Performed with Vladimir Ashkenazy, soloist.

STATEMENT OF TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

December 4, 2006

An outstanding teacher must master the qualities they wish to see in their students. To this end, I continue to pursue advanced degree training, extending the breadth and depth of my knowledge to enrich my students. Through national, state, and professional teacher's associations, I have had the opportunity to attend and conducting workshops and also observe and collaborate with other outstanding educators in my field.

I feel that it is especially important for a teacher in the area of music to be an outstanding performer. There is an aspect to public performance that cannot be fully realized in the classroom. Thoroughness of preparation, confidence, handling performance anxiety, and performing under pressure comes over time and a passion to perform successfully, and goes beyond a theory of performance.

I strive to empower my students by promoting creativity and honest questioning. I am more interested in my students' thoughts about what is presented than I am about their ability to memorize material. I foster higher order thinking skills in my classes that leads to discovery and independent thinking. I consistently reward leadership and self-discovery at all levels of learning. Students must be encouraged to develop an inquiring mind as well as a commitment to personal preparation. I believe today's students are our ambassadors to a future we will never see.

A teacher must model an attitude of individual excellence that inspires students to attain more than they think is possible. Concern for the individual is a hallmark of a great teacher. I conduct every performing organization I am associated with in a manner that creates great students rather than use students to create a great organization.

In my cherished role as a student teacher observer for the states of Pennsylvania and South Carolina, I have been able to influence students in all educational disciplines. The characteristics of great teaching should be apparent in any teaching environment.

REPERTOIRE

Full Orchestra

Addinsell – Warsaw Concerto

Beethoven – Egmont Overture
Piano Concerto No. 5 (“Emperor”)

Bizet – L’Arlesienne Suite No. 2
Symphony in C major

Brahms – Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Bruch – Kol Nidrei

Dvorak – Slavonic Dance No. 8

Glinka – Overture to Russlan and Ludmilla

Grieg – Piano Concerto in A minor

Grofe – Grand Canyon Suite

Hanson – Merry Mount Suite

Haydn – Symphony No. 45 (“Farewell”)

Humperdinck – Overture to “Hansel and Gretel”

Kabalevsky – Overture to “Colas Breugnon”

Mendelssohn – The Hebrides (“Fingal’s Cave”)

Mozart – Piano Concerto No. 23
Symphony No. 40

Mussorgsky – A Night on Bald Mountain

Prokofiev – Lt. Kije Suite
Selections from Peter and the Wolf

Reed – Russian Christmas Music

Respighi – Ancient Airs and Dances – Suite No. 1

Rimsky-Korsakov – Capriccio Espagnol, Op. 34

Saint-Saens – Carnival of the Animals

Schubert – Overture to “Rosamunde”
Symphony No. 8 (“Unfinished”)

Tschaikovsky – Capriccio Italien
Selections from the “Nutcracker Suite”
Symphony No. 2 (“Little Russian”)
Variations on a Rococo Theme
Waltz from “Eugen Onegin”

Verdi - Overture to “La Forza del Destino”

String Orchestra

Arensky – Variations on a Theme by Tschaikovsky

Bach, J. S.- Brandenburg Concerto No. 3

Britten – Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge

Corelli – Concerto Grosso, op. 6 No. 8 (“Christmas Concerto”)

Dvorak – Serenade for Strings, Op. 22

Elgar – Serenade for Strings, Op. 20

Janacek – Idyll for Strings

Mahler – Adagietto from Symphony No. 5

Mozart – Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
Three Divertimenti (K. 136, K. 137, K. 138)

Parry – An English Suite

Respighi – Ancient Airs and Dances – Set III

Shostakovich – Sinfonia for String Orchestra from String Quartet No. 8

Sibelius - Romance

Smith, Larry – Apogees for String Orchestra

Chorus and Orchestra

Borodin – Polovetsian Dances

Dvorak – Te Deum Laudamus, Op. 103

Handel - Messiah

Haydn – Lord Nelson Mass

Verdi – Stabat Mater

Opera (complete)

Cimmarosa – The Secret Marriage

Rossini – The Barber of Seville

REFERENCES

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