



Price • Rubin
& PARTNERS

Jack Price
Managing Director

Michelle Rubin
Founding Director

220 West Pershing Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85029

e-mail:
dt@pricerubin.com

phone:
1-800-848-3360

fax:
1-888-439-1186

website:
www.pricerubin.com

Thomas Wilson

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Wilson is currently Music Director of the Chamber Orchestra of Colorado Springs, Associate Conductor of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, serves on the music faculties at Colorado College and the Colorado Springs Conservatory, and maintains an active guest conducting schedule. Mr. Wilson previously conducted for the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony program and founded the Young Concert Artists of Colorado Springs, and has been a cover conductor for the notoriously challenging *Symphonic Night at the Oscars* film score show.

Thomas began studying piano at the age of four. Later instrumental studies included trumpet, percussion, string bass and voice, before concentrating his efforts on trumpet, conducting and composition. Thomas graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Northern Colorado, receiving the School of Music's highest honor—the Departmental Scholar Award—and pursued additional studies with many of the leading conductors of our time. He is continuing his graduate studies at Colorado State University.

A primary focus of Mr. Wilson's conducting career has been collaborations between performing arts organizations, which he views as essential to artistic growth and a unified arts community. Thomas frequently conducts world premieres, including works by Mark Arnest, Rebecca Clarke, Kevin McChesney, Istvan Hornyak, and Sean Hennessy. Thomas' recent recording projects include the world premier recording of Kevin McChesney's *Ring of Fire*, a live 2-CD release of the Flying W Wranglers with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, and a CD/DVD concert video and documentary on the Hotel Metropolitan in Paducah, Kentucky with the Paducah Symphony Orchestra, focusing on the segregated hotel's rich history through the music of its most prominent guests.

Winner of international recognition as a trumpeter, Mr. Wilson has extensive experience performing, touring, and recording with orchestras, ensembles, and artists. He was one of only three trumpeters ever selected as a finalist for both the International Trumpet Guild Orchestral and Solo Performance Competitions in the same year. A prolific composer and arranger, Thomas' works have been performed widely in the United States, Europe and Japan.

Thomas has won every major arts leadership award in Colorado, and a citizenship medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

He has been called "someone to watch" and "a very exciting conductor" by Michael Tilson Thomas, one of the foremost conductors of our time.

Critical Acclaim

“...a well-focused call to detail ...”

“Thomas Wilson proved to the nicely-filled house that he is up to the challenge of being a catalyst for great art.”

“... Haydn-esque delight—funny, fresh, unpredictable ... Wilson made sure every piece fit together in this outrageous rhythmic puzzle.”

“...conductor Wilson parlayed elastic gestures into light through this dense expression, seeming like a colorist matching every shade to his vision.”

“The complex finale showed once and for all the fine work done here. This was a powerful performance and an affirmation of the orchestral experience.”

—**David Skolnik, ArtsPeak Review, Springs Magazine and KCME Radio**

“Thomas Wilson is a fine conductor, and my ‘right hand man.’ He has saved my career more than once.”

—**Conductor Lawrence Leighton Smith, on his television show *Behind the 8th Note***

“It was an honor to perform with the Chamber Orchestra again. The orchestra has improved remarkably under Thomas Wilson. He’s got a brilliant future ahead.”

—**internationally celebrated piano artist Susan Grace, in the Colorado Springs Independent**

[The Chamber Orchestra of the Springs and Colorado Springs Conservatory’s collaborative performance under the baton of TW] “... was filled to the rafters ... for Menotti’s *Martin’s Lie*. Judging from the between-movement applause, much of the audience had never been to a classical concert before. But after hearing this polished and emotional production of a difficult score, we’re betting it won’t be hard to get them to come back.”

—**The Gazette Telegraph, Best Collaboration award**

“Symphony goes on in superb fashion after emergency calls conductor away.”

“Wilson was an expert collaborator for Ying—no easy task—but especially shone in the Shostakovich.”

“The blend was excellent, and Wilson got an especially well-balanced sound from the brass section.”

“Wilson obviously loves this music, and the orchestra responded with a goose-bump-inducing performance.”

“... a quiet conductor who created the piece’s many moods entirely through sound rather than through physical gyrations. The massive closing crescendo was paced perfectly.”

“... the Copland works sounded terrific. The brass and percussion sections played with solid authority ...”

“*Appalachian Spring* showed more subtlety and tenderness ... a warm, assured performance that brought out the work’s full emotional range ...”

“[Wilson’s] sense of structure is stronger and clearer than ever.”

“Thomas Wilson’s conducting was a model of clarity.”

“Conducting the vast and complicated score [Shostakovich Symphony No. 10] from memory, his interpretation combined crispness and clarity with unrelenting emotional intensity. The result was a fabulous performance of one of the most gripping and weirdly satisfying of all 20th Century symphonies.”

“He’s a quiet, undemonstrative conductor, who achieves his sometimes amazing results without histrionics. There are several keys to Wilson’s success. First, he’s absolutely committed to the music, something that’s easier said than done in the heat of performance. His grasp of structure is clear. Perhaps most important, he creates an environment in which the musicians can play with trust and confidence. If you need a cue, it will be there. Wilson has also played a major role in building the orchestra, both by getting excellent new players (such as concertmaster Azaduhi Anmahian Vieira) and by selecting repertoire that challenges the orchestra.”

—**Mark Arnest, The Gazette Telegraph**

Curriculum Vitae

Professional Experience (Long-term)

Chamber Orchestra of Colorado Springs

Music Director, 1996-present
Budget has increased more than 20X
Annual concerts increased by 10X
Two CD releases
Annual regional tours

Colorado Springs Philharmonic

Associate Conductor, 2000-present
Family, Pops, Masterworks, and other
Major increases in attendance
Dozens of new arrangements and
compositions
Conducting more than half the season

Young Concert Artists of Colorado Springs

Founding Music Director, 1996-2001

Colorado Springs Youth Symphony

Conductor, 1992-2005

Pikes Peak Philharmonic

Interim Music Director, 1998-1999
Turned down permanent offer.

Guest & Short-Term Experiences (partial)

Toledo Symphony Orchestra
New World Symphony
Spokane Symphony
Paducah (Kentucky) Symphony Orchestra
Colorado Wind Ensemble
Sunriver Music Festival Orchestra
Louisiana Philharmonic (New Orleans Symphony)
Florida West Coast Symphony
Fort Collins Symphony
The Denver Brass
Numerous youth and honor orchestras

Primary Conducting Studies

University of Northern Colorado

Bachelor of Music: Education and
Performance
Departmental Scholar (highest honor)
3.99 GPA, summa cum laude
Immersive Study in Detmold, Germany

Colorado State University

Master of Music Education, Conducting
Emphasis
Currently in process, complete in 2012

Conducting Masterclasses and Private Study

Michael Tilson Thomas
Lawrence Leighton Smith
Lothar Zagrosek
Yaacov Bergman
Christopher Wilkins
Apo Hsu
Leif Bjaland
Dr. Kenneth Singleton
Dr. David MacKenzie
Dr. John Bell
Adrian Gnam
Many others

Performing Experience (partial listing)

Colorado Springs Philharmonic (1991 -)
Sunriver Music Festival (2008 -)
Aries Brass Quintet (1990-1992)
Denver Brass (1990-1998)
Colorado Opera Festival (1991-2002)
Opera Theater of the Rockies (2003 -)
Greeley Philharmonic (1989-1991)

Teaching Experience (partial listing)

Colorado College (1998 -)
Colorado Springs Conservatory (2001 -)
Private Instruction in Trumpet, Piano, Composition,
Arranging, Orchestration, and Conducting (1987 -)

REPERTOIRE

(Extremely Abbreviated Listing)

- Johann Sebastian Bach
The Brandenburg Concerti
The Orchestral Suites
- Samuel Barber
The Essays for Orchestra
Adagio for Strings
Violin Concerto
- Ludwig van Beethoven
The Concerti
The Overtures
The Symphonies
Egmont (complete)
- Leonard Bernstein
Candide Selections
On the Waterfront
West Side Story Dances
- Johannes Brahms
The Serenades
The Overtures
The Symphonies
Haydn Variations
- Aaron Copland
Appalachian Spring
Fanfare for the Common Man
Lincoln Portrait
Our Town
Quiet City
Rodeo
The Tender Land Suite
- David Diamond
Concerto for Small Orchestra
- Antonín Dvořák
The Serenades
The Slavonic Dances
The Symphonies
Czech Suite
- Edward Elgard
Enigma Variations
- Gabriel Fauré
Complete Orchestral Music
Requiem
- George Gershwin
An American in Paris
Cuban Overture
I Got Rhythm Variations
Porgy and Bess Selections
Rhapsody in Blue
- Charles Gounod
The Symphonies
- Georg Frideric Handel
The Concerti Grossi
The Organ Concerti
The Messiah
Royal Fireworks Music
Water Music
- Howard Hanson
Symphonies No. 2 & 4
- Franz Joseph Haydn
The Cello Concerti
The London Symphonies
The Paris Symphonies
Various Other Symphonies
Mass in Time of War
Trumpet Concerto
- Paul Hindemith
The Complete Kammermusik
Horn Concerto
Mathis der Maler Symphony
Symphonic Metamorphosis
- Gustav Holst
The Complete String Music
The Planets
- Franz Liszt
Les Preludes
- Felix Mendelssohn
The Overtures
The Sinfonias
The Symphonies
- Gian Carlo Menotti
Amahl and the Night Visitors
The Boy Who Grew Too Fast
Help, Help, The Globolinks!
Martin's Lie
The Medium
The Telephone
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
The Complete Wind Concerti
Most of the Piano Concerti
The Violin Concerti
Most of the Symphonies
Most of the Serenades
Bastien und Bastienne
Many more
- Francis Poulenc
Organ Concerto
Double Piano Concerto
Sinfonietta
- Sergei Rachmaninov
Paganini Rhapsody
Symphony No. 2
- Franz Schubert
The Overtures
The Symphonies
- Dmitri Shostakovich
The Piano Concerti
The Cello Concerti
Chamber Symphony op. 110a
Symphonies No. 1, 5, 9, 10
- Jean Sibelius
Finlandia
Karelia
Symphonies No. 2 & 5
- Igor Stravinsky
Dumbarton Oaks
The Firebird (1919)
Fireworks
Octet
- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
The Concerti
The Orchestral Suites
The Overtures
The Nutcracker
The Symphonies
Serenade for Strings
- Georg Philipp Telemann
Many of the Concerti Grossi
The Overtures
- Antonio Vivaldi
Many Concerti Grossi
The Four Seasons
Gloria
- Richard Wagner
The Overtures
Most Opera Interludes
Siegfried Idyll
- Add to this a huge number of additional works, educational pieces, pops pieces, world premiers, and film scores.

REFERENCES

Lawrence Leighton Smith, Music Director, Colorado Springs Philharmonic and Conducting Faculty at Denver University, 837 Skyway Boulevard, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906, (719) 632-6517, chiefchess1@aol.com

Nathan Newbrough, Executive Director, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, (719) 440-6455, (719) 575-9632 extension 16, Nathan@csphilharmonic.org

David Ball, consultant to (and former Executive Director of) many American orchestras, President of Draw A Bead Consultants, (719) 332-5462, dab@drawabead.com

Yaacov Bergman, Conductor, 7-C Chateaux Circle, Scarsdale, New York 10583, (914) 723-5267, yaki12@aol.com

Linda Weise, Director, Colorado Springs Conservatory, 1430 N. Hancock Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903, (719) 577-4556, lweise@coloradospringsconservatory.org

Christopher Wilkins, Music Director, Akron and Orlando Symphonies, wilkinsc@columbus.rr.com, (614) 237-6649, (210) 363-5999

Paul Nagem, Principal Flautist, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, 1918 N. Nevada, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907, (719) 632-1874, pnagem@coloradocollege.edu

Elwood and Phyllis White, Principal Hornist and Flautist (respectively) for the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, (Elwood is former Principal Horn of the Atlanta Symphony), 5924 Bestview Way, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918, (719) 522-0153, PhyllisVWhite@gmail.com

SAMPLE PROGRAMS 2010-2011

Chamber Orchestra of Colorado Springs 2010-2011 Season

Season Premiere: October 9 & 10, 2010

Franz Joseph Haydn	Symphony No. 73 in D Major "La chasse"
Maurice Ravel	Piano Concerto in G Major Kelly Zuercher, piano
Ludwig van Beethoven	Symphony No. 8 in F Major, op. 93

November 6 & 7, 2010: Emerging from Darkness: Life after WW2

Dmitri Shostakovich	Chamber Symphony, op. 110a
Aaron Copland	Clarinet Concerto Ian Bucksman, clarinet
Ralph Vaughan Williams	Symphony No. 5 in D Major

January 29 & 30, 2011: Voices of Light: COS and the Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Per pietà, non ricercate, K.420
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Misero! O sogno—Aura, che intorno spiri, K.431 John Lindsey, tenor
Camille Saint-Saëns	Symphony in A Major
George Frideric Handel	Coronation Anthem: The King Shall Rejoice, HWV259
Morten Lauridsen	Lux Aeterna Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble

February 26 & 27, 2011: Illuminations of Genius

Benjamin Britten	Les Illuminations Marlissa Hudson, soprano, Shivers Foundation Artist
Felix Mendelssohn	Violin Concerto in E Minor, op. 64 Desiree Cedeno Suarez, violin, Shivers Foundation Artist
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Symphony No. 41 in C Major, K551, <i>Jupiter</i>

Season Finale: April 30 & May 1, 2011

Samuel Barber	Adagio for Strings, op. 11
Ludwig van Beethoven	Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor, op. 37 Dmytro Vynohradov, 2009 Amateur Pianists International Winner
Gabriel Fauré	Elegy, op. 24 Ramona McConkie, cello
Pyotr Tchaikovsky	Suite No. 4, op. 61, in G Major (Mozartiana)

Colorado Springs Philharmonic

October 4, 2009: Vanguard Series Premiere: "Revolutions"

Hector Berlioz	Les Franc-Juges (Judges of the Secret Court)
Ludwig van Beethoven	Egmont (complete incidental music)
Arvo Pärt	Cantus in Memory of Benjamin Britten
Dmitri Shostakovich	Symphony No. 9