

## **KEVIN McMAHON • Conductor**

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

6161 N. Hamilton • Chicago, IL 60659-4220 • 773-338-4182

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### **BIOGRAPHY**

Kevin McMahon studied orchestral, choral, and opera conducting at the University of Michigan with Gustav Meier, Carl St. Clair, Thomas Hilbish, Leo Najar, and H. Robert Reynolds and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with David E. Becker, James Smith, Beverly Taylor and William Farlow. McMahon's musical mentors include Margaret Hillis, Elizabeth A. H. Green, Gunther Schuller, and Maurice Abravanel. As part of the New York Philharmonic Symposium he worked with Erich Leinsdorf. From 1985-1988, the Michigan-born McMahon was music director and conductor of the National Arts Chamber Orchestra, and from 1989-1994 the head conductor for the Lincoln Opera of Chicago. In 1995 he was appointed resident conductor of the Rome Festival (Italy), allowing him to lead numerous concerts, operas, and ballets in his ten-year term there. Kevin McMahon was music director of the Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra from 1995-2008. McMahon began his work as Music Director and Conductor for the Wheaton Symphony Orchestra in 2008. From 1999 he has served as artistic director and conductor of the Maud Powell Music Festival. From 2005 McMahon has served as associate conductor of the New York Repertory Orchestra in New York City. McMahon is now in his second season, as Music Director and Conductor of the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra.

In the United States he has led orchestras in Chicago, Spokane, Tampa, Elgin, South Bend, Cleveland, Madison, Marquette, Washington D. C., Wheaton, Ann Arbor, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Evanston and Milwaukee to name a few. Furthermore, he has conducted orchestras in Germany, Czech Republik, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, and Italy.

In addition to his orchestra work, Kevin McMahon has devoted his life to opera. His most significant projects in recent years include new productions of his own operas *Maud Powell-Queen of Violinists* and *Marilyn Monroe* at the Maud Powell Music Festival, *Hansel and Gretel* at the same festival, and *The Consul* at Chamber Opera Chicago. He has worked at opera and ballet houses in Chicago, Atlanta, and South Bend as a guest conductor.

As conductor, Kevin McMahon strongly supports contemporary music leading a number of European premieres, United States premieres, and over fifty world premieres of stage and concert works.

Among the many awards Kevin McMahon has received, the most prestigious was the Collins Wisconsin Distinguished Fellowship enabling him to pursue and earn a Doctor of Musical Arts.

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## RESUME

### PRESENT POSITIONS

2010-2012	Music Director/Conductor	Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra (WI)
2008-2012	Music Director/Conductor	Wheaton Symphony Orchestra (IL)
1999-2012	Artistic Director/Conductor	Maud Powell Music Festival/Powell Festival Institute (IL)
2005-2012	Associate Conductor	New York Repertory Orchestra (NYC)

### PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2010-2011	Interim Orchestra Director	Ripon College (WI)
1995-2008	Music Director/Conductor	Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra
2003-2005	Collins Fellowship Conductor	University of Wisconsin-Madison Opera
2002-2005	Collins Fellowship Conductor	University of Wisconsin-Madison Symphony and Chamber Orchestras
1995-2004	Resident Conductor	Rome (Italy) Festival Opera, Orchestra, Ballet
2002	Visiting Assistant Prof.	Northern Illinois University Philharmonic
1989-2000	Music Director/Conductor	Northwest Indiana Youth Orchestra
1992-1995	Cover Conductor	South Bend Symphony (IN)
1995	Chief Conductor	Red Bud National Music Festival (MI, IN)
1993-1994	Music Director/Conductor	Kalamazoo College/Community Orchestra (MI)
1989-1994	Music Director/Conductor	Lincoln Opera of Chicago
1988-1989	Music Director/Conductor	Classical Symphony Chamber Ensemble (Chicago)
1988-1989	Assistant Conductor	University of Chicago Prism Wind Orchestra
1985-1988	Music Director/Conductor	National Arts Chamber Orchestra (MI,OH,WI,DC)
1986-1987	Conducting Assistant	University of Michigan Philharmonia

### CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE (partial)

2009, 2010	Rehearsal conductor	Lawrence University Symphony Orchestra
2009	Guest Conductor	Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra (WI)
2009	Guest Conductor	Georgia Ballet
2007, 2009	Guest Conductor	Cobb Symphony Orchestra (GA)
2005, 2008	Rehearsal Conductor	Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra
2008	Guest Conductor	Wheaton Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (IL)
2007	Guest Conductor	Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra
2007	Guest Conductor	Kennesaw State University Orchestra (GA)
2005,2006	Rehearsal Conductor	Chamber Opera Chicago
2005	Cover Conductor	Elgin Symphony Orchestra (IL)
2000, 2004	Guest Conductor	Lincoln Park Sinfonietta (Chicago)
2002-2003	Assistant Conductor	University of Wisconsin Sym. and Cham. Orchs.
2003	Guest Conductor	Evanston Symphony (IL)
1993, 95-96,01	Guest Conductor	South Bend Symphony (IN)
1993, 1996,01	Guest Conductor	Southfeld Ballet (IN)
1995-97,2000	Guest Conductor	Indiana Opera North
2000	Guest Conductor	Marquette Symphony Orchestra (MI)
1999	Guest Conductor	Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Choral Union (IL)
1997-1998	Guest Conductor	Varna Philharmonic (Bulgaria)

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1989,1997-98	Guest Conductor	Northwest Indiana Symphony
1996-1997	Guest Conductor	Indiana Ballet Theatre NW
1996	Guest Conductor	Forfest/Damiana Ensemble (Czech Republik)
1995-1996	Guest Conductor	Great Lakes Arts Symphony (IN)
1995	Guest Conductor	Imperial Dance Company (IN)
1992-1995	Guest Conductor	Etowah Youth/Faculty Sym. (AL)
1990,1994	Guest Conductor	Illinois Valley Symphony
1992	Guest Conductor	Spokane Symphony (WA)
1990	Guest Conductor	Conductors Institute Festival Orchestra (SC)
1987	Guest Conductor	Cassini Ensemble (MI)
1986	Music Director/Conductor	Symphony School Chamber Orchestra (WI)

### DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (*partial*)

2007-2010	Madison Symphony Orchestra (WI) Attendance at rehearsals of John DeMain, Pinchas Zukerman James Smith and Carl St. Clair
2009	Monarch Leadership Sessions, Minneapolis, MN
2008	Komische Oper Berlin, Germany Attendance at rehearsal for La Boheme
2008	National Theater Weimar, Germany and the Weimar Staatskapelle Orchestra Attendance at rehearsals and performances for <i>Der Ring des Nibelungen</i> (complete cycle)
2008	Pacific Symphony Orchestra (CA) Two weeks with attendance at all rehearsals and concerts of Carl St. Clair including <i>The Rite of Spring</i> and guest Andre Watts
2005	Goettingen Symphonie Orchester (Germany) Program with Otto Werner Mueller including daily work with the orchestra
pre-2002	Lyric Opera of Chicago Attendance at rehearsals of Sir Andrew Davis, Bruno Bartoletti, and Ferdinand Leitner in works of Britten, Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, Puccini, etc.
	Chicago Symphony Orchestra Attendance at rehearsals of Sir Georg Solti, Erich Leinsdorf, Claudio Abbado, Margaret Hillis
1997	Mitropoulos Competition, Athens, Greece Selected among 30 out of 330 and invited to Greece. Conducted the Orchestra of Colours.
1996	Tanglewood, Boston Symphony Orchestra Attendance at classes and rehearsals of Bernard Haitink, Seiji Ozawa, Robert Spano, Dennis Russell Davies, Jeffrey Tate, John Williams

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- 1987                      New York Philharmonic  
                                 Attendance at classes and rehearsals of Erich Leinsdorf and Leonard Slatkin
- 1986                      Cleveland Orchestra and Cleveland Institute of Music  
                                 rehearsals of Christoph Dohnanyi, Yoel Levi, and Vladimir Ashkenazy
- 1980s                     Vienna Philharmonic  
                                 Attendance at rehearsals of Claudio Abbado
- The University of Michigan  
                                 Class with Giuseppe Sinopoli

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### **REVIEWS**

“The American idiom comes as naturally to these players as breathing, and one could not have hoped to hear Barber's silken phrases more handsomely spun ...the essential framework McMahon established was eminently appropriate and effective. Thus the performance was full of the heady atmosphere suggested by the text, which describes the smells and sights and sounds of a summer evening in Knoxville.”

**Chicago Tribune**

“...a nice blend of instruments and voices...”

**(Madama Butterfly) Chicago Sun Times**

“...the result is an evening of entertainment that can hardly be beat...”

**(Barber of Seville) South Bend Tribune**

“...one of the most interesting conductors in Ann Arbor. Conductor Kevin McMahon ...believes in interpretation ...One gets the sense that McMahon's interpretive decisions result from a convincing combination of premeditation and inspiration, that they are always appropriate, both to the local context and the entire structure.”

**Ann Arbor News**