

KEVIN McMAHON • Conductor

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

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

BIOGRAPHY

In addition to numerous engagements as a guest conductor, Mr. McMahon is music director and conductor of the Illinois Valley Symphony, artistic director and conductor of the Maud Powell Music Festival and Powell Festival Institute (IL), . Resident Conductor of the Rome Festival Opera, Ballet, and Orchestra (Italy), and Collins Fellowship conductor of the University of Wisconsin Symphony, Chamber Orchestra and Opera.

Mr. McMahon made his symphonic conducting debut with the Symphony School of America Chamber Orchestra in Superior, Wisconsin, subsequently returning as Music Director. In the same period, he served as music director and conductor of the National Arts Chamber Orchestra. This ensemble toured major cultural centers in Cleveland, Ann Arbor, Milwaukee, Washington DC, Madison, Chicago, and numerous other communities. They were a resident orchestra for the XIVth International Viola Congress.

In 1989, Mr. McMahon became resident conductor for the Lincoln Opera of Chicago. In this position he led productions of standard operatic repertoire. Simultaneously, he served as music director and conductor for the Northwest Indiana Youth Orchestra. This ensemble's tours included major centers in Italy.

Mr. McMahon's guest work has included, the Spokane Symphony (WA), Damiana Ensemble (Czech Republik), Elgin Choral Union (IL), Varna Philharmonic (Bulgaria), Forfest (Czech Republik), South Bend Symphony (IN), Northwest Indiana Symphony, Elgin Symphony (IL), Florida All-State Orchestra, Indiana Opera North, Marquette Symphony (MI), Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Orchestra of Colours (Athens, Greece as a semi-finalist in the Mitropoulos Competition), Southwest Michigan Symphony, Evanston Symphony (IL), Hinsdale Chamber Orchestra (IL), La Porte County Symphony (IN), and the Saginaw Symphony (MI).

In Rome, Italy Mr. McMahon has regularly mounted operatic productions including works of Humperdinck, Mozart, Verdi, J. Strauss II, Puccini and Donizetti. With the Classical Symphony Chamber Ensemble, he presented Barber's **A Hand of Bridge**. In collaboration with the Illinois Valley Symphony and Illinois Valley Community College, Mr. McMahon produced Moore's **The Devil and Daniel Webster**. He led Rossini's **II Barbiere di Siviglia** and numerous opera gala concerts with Indiana Opera North. He has recorded works of Francesco Veccia in Los Angeles, and a video version of an excerpt from Puccini's **Suor Angelica**. He has been responsible for a number of European premieres, US premieres, and forty world premieres.

Mr. McMahon has studied with luminaries in the music profession including Gunther Schuller, Harold Farberman, Margaret Hillis, Gustav Meier, Maurice Abravanel, Lukas Foss, Daniel Lewis, Donarld Thulean, Maurice Peress and with Erich Leinsdorf and Leonard Slatkin at the New York Philharmonic Symposium. Mr. McMahon has attended the Tanglewood Music Center and master classes of Seiji Ozawa, Robert Spano, and Bernard Haitink. Other master classes include the Chicago Symphony Bruckner Symposium with Sir Georg Solti and a seminar with Giuseppe Sinopoli. Mr. McMahon has been active with American composers including David Diamond, Irwin Bazelon, David Amram, Harold Farberman, Larry Alan Smith, Ellen Taafe Zwilich, and others. Mr. McMahon is a composer who has studied with Harold Farberman, David Diamond, and Stephen Dembski. Mr. McMahon has a bachelor's degree in violin performance and two master's degrees in orchestral and opera conducting and violin performance from the University of Michigan. Mr. McMahon will receive a doctorate of musical arts in conducting, with a minor in opera production, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May of 2005.

While attending the University of Michigan Mr. McMahon received scholarships from the McFeely-Rogers Foundation and Mary Baloyan. He was graduated with honors and given membership in Pi Kappa Lambda. Mr. McMahon was awarded the Collins Wisconsin Distinguished Fellowship and the Church Memorial Award at the University of Wisconsin. In 2002 Mr. McMahon was given an award for Meritorious Service in Orchestral Conducting from the Illinois Council of Orchestras.

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RESUME

PRESENT POSITIONS

2003-2005	Collins Fellowship Conductor	University of Wisconsin-Madison Opera
2003-2005	Collins Fellowship Conductor	University of Wisconsin-Madison Symphony and Chamber Orchestras
1999-2005	Artistic Director/Conductor	Maud Powell Music Festival/Powell Festival Institute (IL)
1995-2005	Music Director/Conductor	Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra
1995-2005	Resident Conductor	Rome (Italy) Festival

Sabbatical granted from Rome Festival, summer of 2005, to work on revising his opera *Marilyn Monroe*

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

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)

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)
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)

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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