

## **KEVIN McMAHON • Conductor**

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

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

---

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Kevin McMahon studied orchestral, choral, and opera conducting at the University of Michigan with Gustav Meier, Carl St. Clair, Thomas Hilbish, Leo Najjar, 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. 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), which allowed 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. 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.

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, 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 the opera houses in Chicago and South Bend as a guest conductor.

Kevin McMahon has always been a strong supporter of contemporary music and has led a number of European premieres, United States premieres, and over fifty world premieres of stage and concert works.

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

# KEVIN McMAHON • Conductor

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

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

---

## RESUME

### PRESENT POSITIONS

1999-2005	Artistic Director/Conductor	Maud Powell Music Festival/Powell Festival Institute (IL)
2005-2008	Associate Conductor	New York Repertory Orchestra (NYC)
1995-2008	Music Director/Conductor	Illinois Valley Symphony Orchestra

### PREVIOUS POSITIONS

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	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)
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)

## **KEVIN McMAHON • Conductor**

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

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

---

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)

## **KEVIN McMAHON • Conductor**

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

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

---

### **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**