

JERI LYNNE JOHNSON

CURRENT POSITIONS

Founder, Artistic Director Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra 2008

PREVIOUS CONDUCTING POSITIONS

Music Director Trowbridge Chamber Orchestra 2011 - 2017

Cover Conductor Delaware Symphony Orchestras 2010-2011

Principal Conductor Arts in Motion (Philadelphia) 2002-2005

Assistant Conductor Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia 2001-2004

Principal Conductor University of Chicago Undergraduate Composers 1997-2000

Music Director University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra 1999-2001

Assistant Conductor Pocket Opera of Chicago 1999-2000

Assistant Conductor Contemporary Chamber Players (Chicago) 1999-2000

Music Director Hyde Park Youth Symphony (Chicago) 1998-2000

GUEST CONDUCTING

Gateways Music Festival, 2019

Dallas Symphony 2019

Philadelphia Orchestra January 2013

Opera Company of Philadelphia Orchestra February 2013

Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra February 2013

Rodney Mack Philadelphia Big Brass 2010-2012

Al Bustan Seeds of Culture Contemporary Ensemble February 2012

Chicago Sinfonietta January 2012

Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music August 2006

Colorado Symphony Orchestra April 2006

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (UK) February 2006

Weimar Staatskapelle (Germany) November 2005

Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia 2000-2001, 2004

Orchestra Society of Philadelphia since 2003

University of Chicago New Music Ensemble 1997-2000

Pocket Opera of Chicago 1999

Contemporary Chamber Players (Chicago) 1999

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO; MA in Music Theory; 2005

Benjamin E. Mays Fellow

WELLESLEY COLLEGE; BA in Music, BA in Religion; 1993

Awards include:

Andrew W. Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellow

Anne Louise Barrett Fellow

Billings Prize for Excellence in the Study of Music

MENTORS/APPLIED STUDY

James Undercofler

Marin Alsop

Daniel Barenboim, Cliff Colnot

Leon Botstein, Raymond Harvey

Colin Metters, Vladimir Ponkin

David Zinman, John Harbison, Murray Sidlin,

Michael Tilson Thomas

Artistic Director, National Orchestra Institute

Taki Concordia Conducting Fellowship

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Conductors Institute at Bard College

Philharmonisches Kammerorchester Berlin

Masterclasses

Aspen Music Festival, 1998

Jorge Mester Scholar

CONDUCTING CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS**FOUNDER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR BLACK PEARL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, PHILADELPHIA, 2008**

The Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra (BPCO) believes that celebrating cultural diversity and inviting widespread community participation is a mandate for the 21st-century classical music ensemble. Through a visible commitment to cultural diversity, exciting artistic collaborations with some of Philadelphia's most prominent cultural institutions and award-winning innovative audience engagement the BPCO takes the entire community beyond spectatorship to participation in the artistic experience. Accomplishments include:

Personally securing over \$2.8MM in corporate, government and private donations

- ❖ Creating performance projects that have garnered NEA funding annually since 2009.
- ❖ Performance project collaborations with the Free Library of Philadelphia's "One Book, One Philadelphia", the Barnes Foundation, Opera Philadelphia, Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, among other leading Philadelphia cultural institutions
- ❖ Creating three innovative community engagement projects that have each won a highly-competitive Knight Arts Challenge awards making the BPCO the only organization in the country ever to win three awards.
- ❖ Featured panelist on issues of innovation in the orchestra industry, diversity, equity and inclusion and community engagement at the 2014, 2016 National Conferences for the League of American Orchestras in Seattle and Chicago.

MUSIC DIRECTOR, TROWBRIDGE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, PHILADELPHIA, 2011

The Trowbridge Chamber Orchestra is the premier orchestral ensemble for advanced study musicians at Settlement Music School. Comprised of the best young musicians from the greater Philadelphia metropolitan area between the ages of 14-19, Trowbridge performs three concerts per year and occasional outreach performances. Accomplishments include:

- ❖ Increasing enrollment for the ensemble and expanding the repertoire to include composers of African- and Latin descent
- ❖ Raising the profile of the ensemble by securing performances at important civic functions like the Mayor Inauguration and prestigious venues like the Barnes Foundation.
- ❖ Creating musical mentorship opportunities for Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra musicians to run side-by-side rehearsals and sectionals with the students to enhance their professional development

TAKI CONCORDIA CONDUCTING FELLOW, 2005-2006

Conductor and 2005 MacArthur Fellow Marin Alsop founded the Fellowship in 2002 with the mission to create a program which fosters and encourages women who are studying or training to be orchestral conductors.

Accomplishments include:

- ❖ Conducting debut in performances with Maestro Alsop with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (UK) and the Colorado Symphony,
- ❖ Leading one of three orchestras alongside Maestro Alsop and another conductor in Michael Daugherty's Time Machine for three orchestras at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, CA.
- ❖ Assisted Maestro Alsop in professional recording sessions in the UK
- ❖ Creating and updating the organization's infrastructure through a fund-raiser, rebranding the organization, and creating content and for the organization's new website.

ASST. CONDUCTOR, CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF PHILADELPHIA, 2000-2004

One of the premier chamber orchestras in the US with a budget of approximately \$2M, I programmed and conducted two regular subscription season concerts and all education, holiday and outreach concerts; covered rehearsals and concerts for guest artists and the Principal Conductor.

Accomplishments include:

- ❖ Conducted the world premieres of two innovative commissions that stretched the possibilities of classical music-one by the eclectic Tin Hat Trio and the other with industrial percussion ensemble Scrap Arts Music.
- ❖ Edited all season concerts for broadcast on local Philadelphia NPR station, WRTI.
- ❖ Choreographed and directed a team of cameras, computer animators for the visuals in two multimedia performances conducted by the Principal Conductor (Haydn's *Creation*; Schoenberg's *Ode to Napoleon*)

MUSIC DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, 1999-2001

For this orchestra comprising students and local professional musicians, I auditioned players, determined seating, programmed and conducted three concerts per year and led an annual week-long production of light opera performed with the oldest and most popular Gilbert and Sullivan company in the city.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**DREXEL UNIVERSITY - GUEST LECTURER, 2010-2011**

At the invitation of then Professor James Undercofler, former President of the Philadelphia Orchestra, I offered lectures in arts entrepreneurship at the graduate Arts Administration program at the Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO – LECTURER, 1998-1999

- ❖ During my graduate work at the University of Chicago, I taught a year –long course in undergraduate music theory. I designed the course curriculum, devised the reading list for and devised practical exercises for approximately 25 undergraduate non-music majors.
- ❖ As a graduate teaching assistant, I created a music theory curriculum for undergraduate music majors designed to implement classroom lectures with practical music making. The curriculum included practical keyboard skills, analysis of musical elements (e.g., melody, harmony, rhythm, meter, large-scale form). The practical curriculum was so successful, the Music Department used it as a model for subsequent TAs to follow in devising future practical curricula

ARTS ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTING

DEI ARTS CONSULTING, 2008-present

As an arts and non-profit consultant, I have provided a number of Pennsylvania arts and community service organizations and foundations with advice and clarity around issues of diversity in the arts, strategies for branding, institutional messaging and mission, and provided program design and implementation for the following clients and secured over \$1MM in funding for the following:

- ❖ Community engagement, institutional messaging: Philadelphia Chamber Music Society,
- ❖ Program design and implementation: Foundations, Inc., City of Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation; the Blues Babe Foundation
- ❖ Institutional mission, branding: Small But Mighty Arts Grants, Philadelphia
- ❖ Development, Strategic Vision: Urban Erie Community Development Corporation, Erie, PA

INTERIM VP, ARTISTIC PLANNING, THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA, 1997

I oversaw the department of artistic planning in advance of the arrival of the incoming new VP of Artistic Planning. My responsibilities primarily consisted of

- ❖ Restoring order to the orchestra's main roster and programming schedule in preparation for the 1997-1998 season due to the 64-day orchestra strike in 1996
- ❖ Renegotiating contracts for and rescheduling performances with guest artists whose appearances had been cancelled in 1996
- ❖ Finalizing new orchestra member contracts in light of the settlement.

COMMUNITY AWARDS, AFFILIATIONS

2020 Woman One Award, Institute of Women's Health and Leadership, Drexel University
2012 Women's Opportunities Resource Center IMPACT Awardee
2011 Woman of Distinction, Philadelphia Business Journal
2010 *Philly 360* Creative Ambassador, Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation
2010 The Power Shift Arts and Culture Award
2010 Kaki Marshall Arts and Community Award
2010 "Share the Heritage" Award, Philadelphia Multicultural Affairs Congress
2009 Leeway Transformation Award
2009 Honoree, "*Next Generation of Leadership: Rising Stars*," City of Philadelphia
2008 Music Honoree, Black Lily Film and Music Festival, Philadelphia, PA

Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance- Board Member, Secretary
Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation- Board Member, President
The Recording Academy- Philadelphia Chapter- Board Member, Secretary
Philadelphia Music Alliance- Advisory Board
The Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia- Board Member
British American Project Fellow
Wellesley-in-Philadelphia Alumnae Association
Wellesley College Alumnae of African Descent
League of American Orchestras, Member
Philadelphia Assemblies, Member