

Marcelo Lehninger

Conductor

Brazilian-born Marcelo Lehninger is in his third year as Music Director of the Grand Rapids Symphony. In 2018, he brought the orchestra to Carnegie Hall, its first performance at the famed venue in thirteen years. He previously served as Music Director of the New West Symphony in Los Angeles, for which the League of American Orchestras awarded him the Helen H. Thompson Award for Emerging Music Directors. After a very successful two-year tenure as Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra that included stepping in for James Levine on short notice in Boston and on tour at Carnegie Hall, Marcelo served as Associate Conductor for an additional three years.

Mr. Lehninger's 2018-19 season includes debuts with the Princeton Symphony and the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo, and returns to the Hawaii, Portland, Brazilian and Kyushu Symphony Orchestras, as well as Minas Gerais Philharmonic Orchestra.

During the 17-18 season, Mr. Lehninger made debuts with the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse and the Charlotte and Tucson Symphonies, and returned to the North Carolina Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, and the Slovenian Philharmonic, which he led on tour to Vienna.

As a guest conductor in the United States, Mr. Lehninger has led the Chicago, Pittsburgh, Houston, Detroit, Baltimore, Seattle, Colorado, Milwaukee, National, Jacksonville, New Jersey, Indianapolis, Omaha, Chautauqua, Hartford, Toledo, and Fairfax Symphonies; the Florida and Louisville Orchestras; and the Orlando, New Mexico, and Colorado Springs Philharmonics.

In Canada, he has appeared with the Toronto, Winnipeg, and Kitchener-Waterloo Symphonies, the Calgary and Hamilton Philharmonics, and Symphony Nova Scotia. In Australia, Mr. Lehninger conducted the Sydney and Melbourne Symphonies. European highlights include engagements with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre National de France, Lucerne Symphony, Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, and a tour with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra assisting Mariss Jansons.

Mr. Lehninger was music advisor of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas for the 2007-08 season. Plácido Domingo serves as artistic advisor for the ensemble, which is composed of 120 talented musicians from more than twenty countries throughout the Americas. In summer of 2008, Maestro Lehninger toured with YOA and pianist Nelson Freire in South America, conducting concerts in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. He has led all of the top orchestras in Brazil, and served as Associate Conductor of the Minas Gerais Philharmonic Orchestra.

Chosen by Kurt Masur in 2008, Mr. Lehninger was awarded the First Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Scholarship sponsored by the American Friends of the Mendelssohn Foundation. He was Maestro Masur's assistant with the Orchestre National de France (during their residency at the Musikverein in Vienna), Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig, and the New York Philharmonic. In 2011, he participated in the Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview, organized by the League of American Orchestras, conducting the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, and debuted with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center as part of the National Conducting Institute in 2007.

Before dedicating his career to conducting, Mr. Lehninger studied violin and piano. He holds a Master's degree from the Conductors Institute at New York's Bard College, where he studied conducting under Harold Farberman and composition with Laurence Wallach. His mentors also include Kurt Masur, Leonard Slatkin, and Roberto Tibiriçá. A dual citizen of Brazil and Germany, Marcelo Goulart Lehninger is the son of pianist Sônia Goulart and violinist Erich Lehninger.

For more information on Maestro Lehninger, please visit www.marcelolehninger.com.

Official biography for the 2018/2019 season

Last updated on March 2019

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