

DIRK MEYER BIOGRAPHY

LONG (646 words)

German conductor DIRK MEYER is Music Director of the Augusta Symphony in Georgia and the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra (DSSO) in Minnesota. Having received much of his training in European opera houses, Meyer is also passionate about opera also holds the position of Music Director with the Lyric Opera of the North.

He has guest conducted many orchestras throughout the United States, including the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, Symphoria in Syracuse, the Orlando Philharmonic, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra in Massachusetts, the Naples Philharmonic and The Florida Orchestra. Other recent engagements have been with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in Canada, the New Bedford (MA) and East Texas Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Sarasota Orchestra in Florida. In 2012 Meyer was named the winner of The American Prize in orchestral conducting.

Over the course of his career Meyer has earned an outstanding reputation with musicians, audiences and critics, alike. His performances have been described as "most intimate and emotional", "mesmerizing" and "out of this world" and his personable and entertaining style has made him an audience favorite. In 2017 he was awarded the Arts & Culture Initiative Award by the Depot Foundation in Minnesota.

As a champion of orchestral music Meyer creates concert experiences that bring classical music to new audiences. These endeavors range from conversational concerts to multimedia performances, and include collaborations of all kinds. One of the most adventurous collaborations he created was Runway Duluth, a fashion and music collaboration that received national recognition and redefined what the concert experience can be.

Most recently Meyer created The Beethoven Project, a collaboration between the DSSO and Minnesota Public Radio: During the five years of this project the DSSO will perform and record all of Beethoven's nine symphonies and, at the same time, create concerts and events that shed a light on the master's works and bring his music to new demographics.

Maestro Meyer is the author of "Chamber Orchestra and Ensemble Repertoire. A Catalog of Modern Music". Published by Scarecrow Press with a foreword by David Daniels, this book is a resource for conductors, librarians and administrators, providing them with performance information to about 4000 compositions. Meyer's special interest in contemporary music has led to him leading world premiers by composers such as Miguel del Aguila and Eve Baglarian, as well as the American or regional premiers of works by Arvo Pärt, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Joby Talbot, Elliott Sharp, Jonathan Leshnoff, and Hugo Alfvén.

Outside of North America Meyer has conducted many orchestras in Europe and abroad, including appearances in South Africa, the Czech Republic and Germany. In the operatic world he has led performances of Carmen and Don Giovanni with the Plovdiv Opera in Bulgaria and served as Assistant Conductor to the Michigan State University Opera Theatre, which he conducted in Puccini's La Bohème and Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress.

From 2007 to 2011 Meyer served as Music Director to the Sarasota Youth Orchestras, giving his Carnegie Hall debut in New York City with the Sarasota Youth Philharmonic in 2008.

Prior to his current appointments Meyer served as Associate Conductor, and later Principal Guest Conductor, of the Sarasota Orchestra in Florida. Further appointments have included Assistant positions with the Traverse Symphony (MI) and Missouri Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Music Director position with the Mason Symphony Orchestra in Michigan.

Meyer has studied with teachers like Neeme Järvi and Jorma Panula and, in addition, he assisted with numerous productions at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein (Germany), as well as at the Vienna State Opera (Austria) and the Teatro Real in Madrid (Spain). He holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Masters degrees in orchestral conducting from Michigan State University, where he worked with Leon Gregorian and Raphael Jimenez. Here he also worked as Graduate Teaching Assistant. His Bachelor's Degrees are from the Folkwang Conservatory in Germany (music) as well as the University Duisburg-Essen (philosophy).

SHORT (330 words)

German conductor DIRK MEYER is Music Director of the Augusta Symphony (GA) and the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra (MN). Passionate about opera, he also holds the position of Music Director with the Lyric Opera of the North.

Meyer has guest conducted many orchestras throughout the United States, including the Phoenix Symphony, Symphoria, the Orlando Philharmonic, the Springfield Symphony, the Naples Philharmonic and The Florida Orchestra. Other engagements include the Toronto Symphony and the Edmonton Symphony in Canada, the New Bedford (MA) and East Texas Symphonies, as well as the Sarasota Orchestra in Florida. Meyer is first prize winner of The American Prize in orchestral conducting and was awarded the Arts & Culture Initiative Award by the Depot Foundation in Minnesota in 2017.

Meyer's performances have been described as "mesmerizing" and "out of this world". As a champion of orchestral music Meyer brings classical music to new audiences, creating concert experiences that range from multimedia performances, to collaborations of all kinds.

Most recently Meyer created The Beethoven Project, a collaboration with Minnesota Public Radio, which features the recording of Beethoven's nine symphonies, and concerts and events that bring his music to new demographics. Maestro Meyer is also the author of "Chamber Orchestra and Ensemble Repertoire. A Catalog of Modern Music".

Abroad Meyer has conducted in countries like South Africa, the Czech Republic and Germany. He also led performances at the Plovdiv Opera in Bulgaria. Prior to his current appointments Meyer served as Associate Conductor of the Sarasota Orchestra, as well as assistant conductor with the Traverse Symphony, and the Missouri Symphony Orchestra.

Meyer has studied with teachers like Neeme Järvi and Jorma Panula and assisted at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein (Germany), as well as at the Vienna State Opera (Austria) and the Teatro Real in Madrid (Spain).

He holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Masters degrees in orchestral conducting from Michigan State University, as well as Bachelor's Degrees from the Folkwang Conservatory in Germany (music) and the University Duisburg-Essen (philosophy).

VERY SHORT (183 Words)

German conductor DIRK MEYER is Music Director of the Augusta Symphony, the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, and the Lyric Opera of the North. Meyer has guest conducted orchestras like the Toronto Symphony, the Phoenix Symphony, the Naples Philharmonic, Symphoria, as well as the Edmonton Symphony and the Sarasota Orchestra. Meyer is first prize winner of The American Prize in conducting and recipient of the Arts & Culture Initiative Award in Minnesota.

Through the creation of new concert experiences that range from multimedia to adventurous collaborations, Meyer brings classical music to new audiences. Most recently he created The Beethoven Project, recording all of Beethoven's symphonies, and bringing his music to new demographics.

Maestro Meyer is also the author of "Chamber Orchestra and Ensemble Repertoire. A Catalog of Modern Music". Additionally, he has conducted in countries like South Africa, the Czech Republic, Germany, and Bulgaria. Assistantships have led him to the Deutsche Oper am Rhein (Germany), the Vienna State Opera (Austria) and the Teatro Real in Madrid (Spain).

Meyer holds graduate degrees from Michigan State University, and Bachelor's Degrees from the Folkwang Conservatory in Germany.