

## DIRK MEYER BIOGRAPHY

### LONG (636 words)

German-American 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 Modesto Symphony (CA), 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.

Meyer has performed with some of today's leading artists, including Jan Lisiecki, Peter Serkin, Misha Dichter, Joyce Yang, Lynn Harrell and Christine Brewer. 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.

With the Augusta Symphony Meyer recorded five previously unrecorded works by Uruguayan-American composer Miguel del Aguila, in collaboration with *peermusic Classical* and released on Albany Records. The next recording with this ensemble will feature music by American composers James Lee III and Amy Beach.

Maestro Meyer is also the author of "Chamber Orchestra and Ensemble Repertoire. A Catalog of Modern Music". Featuring 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 resulted in him leading world premiers by many of today's leading composers.

Outside of North America Meyer has conducted 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.

With the Lyric Opera of the North Meyer has appeared in many productions, leading the company in everything from premiers of new chamber operas to large productions of works by Verdi, Donizetti, Mozart and many more.

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 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 (384 words)**

German-American 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 and Modesto Symphony Orchestra in California. He has performed with some of today's leading artists, including Jan Lisiecki, Peter Serkin, Misha Dichter, and Lynn Harrell. In 2017 he was awarded the Arts & Culture Initiative Award by the Depot Foundation in Minnesota.

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.

With the Augusta Symphony Meyer recorded five previously unrecorded works by Uruguayan-American composer Miguel del Aguila, in collaboration with *peermusic Classical* and released on Albany Records. The next recording with this ensemble will feature music by American composers James Lee III and Amy Beach.

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 (208 Words)**

German-American 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. With the Augusta Symphony Meyer recorded five previously unrecorded works by Uruguayan-American composer Miguel del Aguila, in collaboration with *peermusic Classical* and

released on Albany Records. The next recording with this ensemble will feature music by American composers James Lee III and Amy Beach.

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.