

John Thomas Dodson, Conductor



With his powerful and insightful interpretations, the American conductor, John Thomas Dodson, has been praised recently by critics as “*brilliant and effervescent*”, commenting on his “*intelligent and logical*” leadership, noting his “*collaborative hand*” coupled with a “*commanding authority*”.

In addition to his regular work in the United States, Mr. Dodson appears with orchestras all over the world including the Athens State Orchestra, Budapest Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic, Bialystok Philharmonic, and the Symphony Orchestra UANL in Monterrey, Mexico. He has made numerous tours of Russia conducting the National Philharmonic of Russia, National Symphony Orchestra of Bashkortostan, Irkutsk Symphony Orchestra, and the Omsk State Academic Symphony Orchestra.

Currently serving as Music Director of the Adrian Symphony Orchestra Mr. Dodson is committed to new music and has led over twenty world-premieres in the United States, Russia and Europe. Under his Music Directorship the Adrian Symphony Orchestra named American composer Kenneth Fuchs its Composer-in-Residence for two seasons, resulting in five world premieres, and he invited Bright Sheng to conduct his music with the orchestra later the following year. Mr. Dodson’s recording of orchestral music by Robert Jager with the Omsk Philharmonic was released on the Naxos label in May of 2011.

Dodson is Artistic Director of the Conciertos de la Villa de Santo Domingo, a project in the Dominican Republic featuring Baroque music concerts, educational activities and on-site discovery experiences in the historic buildings of the first city of the New World. Camerata Colonial, the chamber orchestra for Conciertos de la Villa de Santo Domingo, is comprised of international musicians drawn from principal players from the New York City Ballet Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic, and other outstanding musical institutions in the United States.

During his time with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra the organization has experienced tremendous artistic development and remarkable audience growth. The orchestra has introduced audience-educational programs that serve the entire age spectrum and created innovative concert-formats drawing the largest audiences in the orchestra’s history.

John Thomas Dodson holds a master of music degree in orchestral conducting from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland, where he studied under renowned conducting pedagogue Frederik Prausnitz. He continued his conducting studies with Paul Vermel at the Aspen Music School, studied composition with Robert Jager and was mentored in strings by Ed Meyer, father of bass virtuoso and composer Edgar Meyer. Mr. Dodson received the Lenawee Arts Award from the Crosswell Opera House and the Ross Newsom Award for Outstanding Teaching from Adrian College.

Mr. Dodson writes a blog on the subject of building arts communities for Arts Journal. Visit *Creative Destruction*, at www.artsjournal.com/created. His website is located at www.johnthomasdodson.com. Representation: CHL Artists www.chlartists.com

John Thomas Dodson

Review Excerpts



West Michigan Symphony Orchestra

“Dodson approached the ... program with a quiet seriousness that lent an aura of culture and class to the event.”

Laura Alexandria, *The Muskegon Chronicle*, Muskegon, Michigan, December 10, 2011

Adrian Symphony Orchestra

“...nothing short of superb performances from the orchestra...”

Arlene Bachanov, *Daily Telegram*, Adrian, Michigan, October 31, 2011

Camerata Colonial

“The concert *The Splendor of the Baroque* interpreted by the orchestra Camerata Colonial under the musical direction of maestro John Thomas Dodson, concluded a week of musical and artistic events by *Conciertos de la Villa De Santo Domingo* with a public success last night.

Eduard Villanueva, *El Caribe*, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, September 9, 2011

National Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic

“...under the direction of Dodson the musical result achieved was brilliant and effervescent.”

Lúis Alberto Muñoz, *El Caribe*, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, August 16, 2006

Bialystok Philharmonic

“American conductor John Dodson understood Franck’s *Symphony in D Minor* well, leading it intelligently and logically. He allowed for ebb and flow and built a series of climaxes that related to each other across the entire work. This expressive conception was so convincing that it drew the listeners completely into the course of the work.”

Stanisława Olędzkiego, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Białystok, Poland, March 2002

Symphonic Orchestra UANL of Monterrey Mexico

“Dodson is a good director...., he is clear in his gestures and effective in the moment. He led the program well with a collaborative hand and commanded the orchestra with authority.”

Silvino Jarmillo, *El Porvenir*, Monterrey, Mexico, December 6, 1998

Budapest Philharmonic

“Dodson prepared our Philharmonic with incredible care. This intensive preparation resulted in an evocative and truly expressive performance. . . . a truly great popular success.”

Janos Breuer, *Budapest Musical Chronicle*, Budapest, Hungary, May 13, 1986

JOHN THOMAS DODSON

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Artistic Director, Conciertos de la Villa de Santo Domingo

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"I have seen John Dodson conduct....[and] have heard some excellent recordings of his. He is a very fine musician and a very good conductor. I am convinced that he will have a very bright future and a very successful career".

Ivan Fischer, Music Director, Budapest Festival Orchestra
Principal Guest Conductor, National Symphony Orchestra, Washington, DC

MUSIC DIRECTOR

2011-present **Camerata Colonial** www.conciertosdelavilla.com

Chamber Orchestra of musicians from Dominican Republic and United States comprised of principal players from New York City Ballet Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of the Dominican Republic and outstanding US musical institutions

2001-present **Adrian Symphony Orchestra** www.adriansymphony.org

League of American Orchestras Institutional Vision Program

Professional per-service Regional Orchestra with 9 concert season including Classical, Casual Classics, Family Discovery, Pops, Education and run-outs. Principal Conductor for most concerts. Working with Artistic Advisory Committee, programs and selects guest artists and guest conductors; active in community as a spokesperson for orchestra; develops and implements long-term plan for artistic growth; involved in fundraising and community relations.

1993-2001 **Bryan Symphony Orchestra** www.bryansymphony.org

American Symphony Orchestra League's 1995 and 1998 Sally Parker Education Award

Conducted professional regional orchestra (members drawn from Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga symphonies). Annually conducted a season of Classical, Pops, Educational, and Family concerts with soloists from major competitions and New York Philharmonic.

1990-1993 **Orchestra New York**, New York City

Conducted and programmed concerts at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, Saint Luke's Lutheran Church, Trinity School, Saint Peter's Church. Chamber orchestra drawn from students at Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music and Mannes College of Music

1984-1989 **Philharmonia Orchestra of Tucson**, Tucson, Arizona

Conducted concerts, run-out concerts, children's concerts for youth orchestra, created Coronado Music Festival with orchestra concerts at Ski Valley, Mount Lemmon and the University of Arizona; Musicians from regional and metropolitan orchestras and soloists from the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2011 - present **Conciertos de la Villa de Santo Domingo** www.conciertosdelavilla.com

Concert series and educational activities in Colonial City of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

2006 - 2011 **Ballet Theatre of Toledo**, Toledo, Ohio
Conduct all Nutcracker ballet performances

GUEST CONDUCTOR

Athens (Greece) State Symphony, Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Bialystok (Poland) Symphony Orchestra, Omsk (Russia) Philharmonic, National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia, Irkutsk (Russia) Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra of Bashkortostan (Russia), Orquesta Sinfónica UANL (Monterrey, Mexico), Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional (Dominican Republic), West Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham-Bloomfield (Detroit, MI) Symphony Orchestra

RECORDINGS

2011 NAXOS Records: [Orchestral Music of Robert Jager](#)
Omsk Philharmonic Orchestra, St. Louis Children's Choir,
Stephanie Winker, Flute; Michael Lackey, Narrator;
Released on Naxos, May 2011

2007 Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*
Janet Sung, Violin; Adrian Symphony Orchestra

FESTIVALS, SUMMER PROGRAMS

1996-2005, 2008 Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts Orchestra
1999 Oklahoma Arts Institute Orchestra
1998 Sewanee Summer Music Center Festival Orchestra
1997 Colorado Symphony Orchestra Summer Orchestra Training Program

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS PRESENTATIONS

2011 Essentials of Orchestra Management Seminar, League of American
Orchestras, New York, NY; Case Study: *Adrian Symphony
Orchestra, a different approach to community building*

2010 League of American Orchestras National Conference, Atlanta
Digital Models for Building Arts Communities

2009 League of American Orchestras National Conference, Chicago
Ideas that Work - Peer to Peer Roundtables:
*Turning Audience Members into Donors, An On-Boarding Model
using Orchestral Musicians for Building Relationships*

EDUCATION

1983 Peabody Conservatory of Music,
Master of Music: Orchestral Conducting
Frederik Prausnitz, Conducting

1980 Tennessee Technological University,
Bachelor of Science: Music Education

1983 Aspen Music School
Conducting Fellow
Paul Vermel

VIDEO LINKS: <http://johnthomasdodson.com/video/>

REVIEWS LINKS:

Adrian Symphony Orchestra

<http://www.lenconnect.com/entertainment/x463304740/Opening-concert-has-Adrian-Symphony-Orchestra-cellist-Yannis-Tsitselikis-in-top-form>

<http://www.lenconnect.com/entertainment/x1225328738/Adrian-Symphony-Orchestra-sparkles-in-season-s-final-classical-concert>

Conciertos de la Villa de Santo Domingo

http://rocavisiondominicana.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=742:la-musica-barroca-vive-en-la-zona-colonial&catid=44:farandula&Itemid=108

<http://www.eljaya.com/201108-2/09-popular.php>

INNOVATION LINKS:

Philanthropy Today:

<http://www.martsandlundy.com/ideas/?p=544>

Salon.com:

http://mobile.salon.com/ent/2011/08/29/can_the_symphony_be_saved/index.html

Adrian Daily Telegram:

<http://www.lenconnect.com/entertainment/x868512982/Experimentation-culture-of-inquiry-drive-reinvention-of-Adrian-Symphony-Orchestra>

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN ORCHESTRAS' SYMPHONY MAGAZINE LINKS:

Institutional Vision Program:

http://www.americanorchestras.org/images/stories/symphony_magazine/Vision_Quest.pdf

Peer to Peer Roundtable Presentation

http://www.americanorchestras.org/images/stories/symphony_magazine/sep_oct09/Money_Matters.pdf

CONCIERTOS DE LA VILLA LINKS:

<http://www.almomento.net/news/134/ARTICLE/94475/2011-08-26.html>

<http://www.7dias.com.do/app/article.aspx?id=105784>

<http://www.acento.com.do/index.php/news/6939/56/exito-de-publico-en-la-gala-concierto-Esplendor-Barroco.html>

