

Timothy Muffitt

Timothy Muffitt is currently Music Director and Conductor of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since 2006. For 21 years, he was also Music Director of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. Upon his resignation there he was honored with the title Music Director Laureate. Mr. Muffitt is also Artistic Director of the Chautauqua Institution Music School and conductor of the Music School Festival Orchestra, one of the country's premiere orchestral training ensembles. He has held this position for 25 years.

Along with continued growth in artistic excellence, Mr. Muffitt's work has been marked by innovative and imaginative programming. In addition to traditional concert settings, he has crafted concert programs in new and engaging formats and venues, creating musical experiences that have expanded the audience base in his communities and garnered enthusiastic response.

Also notable throughout his career has been the championing of new music from composers of broadly diverse backgrounds including composers from traditionally under-represented communities along with well-established composers and those whose stars are still rising. He has been involved in commissioning well over 100 works in his career and initiated a Composer-in-Residence program with The Lansing Symphony. These efforts reflect Mr. Muffitt's commitment to creating a nurturing environment for music of our time, all while striking a balance with traditional repertoire that creates a dynamic experience for the audiences.

In great demand as a guest conductor, Mr. Muffitt has appeared with many prominent orchestras around the country including the Atlanta, St. Louis, Houston, Phoenix, Edmonton, Spokane and Tulsa Symphonies, along with several return engagements with the San Francisco Symphony. Other engagements have taken Muffitt to podiums of the Hollywood Bowl, Columbus Ohio's Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, the Long Beach Symphony, the Buffalo Philharmonic, Harrisburg Symphony, the Virginia Symphony, and the Grant Park Music Festival Orchestra in Chicago. Equally at home in the opera pit as the concert stage, Mr. Muffitt has also conducted over 50 staged opera productions.

He has had the pleasure of collaborating with a wide range of artists including Lang Lang, Yo Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Renee Fleming, Hilary Hahn, William Warfield, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Van Cliburn, Itzhak Perlman, Andre Watts, Joshua Bell, Pinchas Zuckerman, Audra McDonald, Chris Botti, Branford Marsalis, Roberta Flack, Kenny Loggins, and Trisha Yearwood among many others.

Some highlights of this past season included a return engagement with the Baton Rouge Symphony along with Yo-Yo Ma in Dvorak's Cello Concerto, and a performance at the Chautauqua Institution with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra of Mr. Marsalis' "All Rise," and epic two-hour-long cantata.

Off the podium, Mr. Muffitt has engaged his communities as an arts advocate and cultural leader through multiple platforms. A strong proponent of community-based arts education and enrichment, he has used television, radio, public lecture and social media to engage, entertain and enlighten diverse audiences.

Formerly Associate Conductor with the Austin Symphony, Mr. Muffitt was also Artistic Director of the Louisiana Philharmonic's Casual Classics Series in New Orleans. It was for his work in that position, that he was awarded a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the American Federation of Musicians.

Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Mr. Muffitt began his musical studies on the piano and later added viola and trumpet. His conducting teachers were David Efron, Timothy Russell, Murry Sidlin and Walter Hendl. He is a graduate of Ohio State University and the Eastman School of Music where he earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree.