



Roderick Cox
Assistant Conductor
Alabama Symphony Orchestra

Roderick Cox is assistant conductor of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and music director of the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra. A native of Macon, Georgia, he has been recognized nationally as a gifted young conductor, described as "uncommonly talented" and "extremely musical" by the late James DePreist.

Roderick will make his subscription concert debut with the Macon Symphony Orchestra in the 2013-2014 season. In 2013, Cox was selected as a conducting fellow for the acclaimed American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival where he will work with conductors Robert Spano and Larry Rachleff. He was chosen as the 2012 David Effron Conducting Fellow at the Chautauqua Music Festival in New York where he studied with Timothy Muffitt. Roderick was selected as a semi-finalist for the 2013 Bruno Walter National Conductor Preview and for two consecutive summers by Marin Alsop as a conductor to attend the Conductors Guild Conductor/Composer Training Workshop at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.

A champion of contemporary music and living composers, Roderick Cox opened the orchestra's award-winning Classical Edge Series in 2013 with new music by Gabriel Kahane and Andrew Norman. "Keeping it all together was ASO Assistant Conductor Roderick Cox," wrote *The Birmingham News*. Roderick "artfully managed the score's rhythmic complexities with its orchestral color, energy and reflection."

He's led special-event concerts, including the annual tribute to Martin Luther King Jr., which was awarded a five-star review and drew a capacity crowd – by far the largest audience in the concert's history. Roderick and the ASO commissioned and premiered two pieces by Henry Panion, commemorating the Civil Rights struggle in Birmingham. With the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Roderick also conducts the annual Explorer and Young People's Concerts, run-out concerts and the free Railroad Park outdoor concerts, which reach as many as 10,000 listeners.

Roderick is deeply devoted to music education and innovative approaches to community outreach. As music director of the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra, he is seeing record ticket sales and growth in overall student participation. In April 2011, he helped organize and conduct a concert of film music to benefit The People's Music School in Chicago. The concert was an effort to provide free music lessons for less fortunate families of the community who wish to expose their children to classical music but without the means to do so. He is also an active volunteer with the Big O' Youth Foundation in Macon, Georgia.

Roderick earned his Master of Music degree in conducting from Northwestern University in Evanston,

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Illinois. His conducting teachers were Mallory Thompson and Victor Yampolsky. Influential conductors and pedagogues such as Marin Alsop, Mei-Ann Chen, Gustav Meier, Larry Rachleff, Donald Schleicher, Robert Spano, Mark Gibson, and Adrian Gnam, have shaped his education as a conductor. In May 2009, Cox graduated summa cum laude from Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in music education and studied conducting with Robert Rumbelow.



Rei Hotoda
Assistant Conductor
Dallas Symphony Orchestra

Rei Hotoda, a protégé of acclaimed conductor Marin Alsop and winner of the Taki Concordia Conducting Fellowship in 2006, is rapidly gaining strong recognition. Her “meticulous ear for detail and a gestural language that produces a beautiful contoured performance” (*Columbus Dispatch*, January 2012) has garnered her guest conducting appearances with orchestras throughout North America and Europe, including performances with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Staatskapelle Weimar Orchestra and the International Contemporary Ensemble. Voted unanimously by Jaap van Zweden and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in 2009 as their assistant conductor, Rei completed her third season with the DSO in 2012. In addition to her cover conducting duties with the DSO and at the *Bravo Vail Music Festival*, she led the DSO in a multitude of programs. These programs included the DSO Summer Classics, Coffee Classic Series, Pops series, Family Concerts, DSO Outreach and Parks concerts, the DSO concerts in Greenville, and the Cecil and Ida Green Youth Concert series which reaches over 12,000 students in the Dallas area every year.

Recently, she was invited as a finalist for the Music Director positions with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, the Duluth-Superior Symphony, and Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra. She guest conducted these orchestras during their 2011-2012 subscription seasons. Her previous positions include assistant conductor of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra from 2006-2009; assistant conductor for the 2005 Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in California; and assistant conductor of the 2005 Hot Springs Music Festival. She has conducted numerous artists and touring groups including Avery Fisher Winner pianist Joyce Yang, *Pink Martini*, Tony Award Winner Idina Menzel, *Jeans'n Classics*, Ben Folds and Guy Maddin's film *Brand upon the Brain* for live orchestra with actress Isabella Rossellini as narrator. As an advocate of new music, Rei has conducted premieres of notable composers from Asia, Europe and North America including Dai Fujikura, Salvatore Sciarrino, Luc Ferrari, and Gene Coleman. Rei has championed and recorded works by female composers such as Jennifer Higdon, Vivian Fung, Kotoka Suzuki and Nicole Lizée.

Her discography includes *Symphony Sessions* with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, featuring music of Steve Bell, and a solo piano CD of Asian composers from Japan, Canada and the United States entitled, *Apparitions*. She has also recorded music of composer Nicole Lizée with members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on the Centrediscs label.

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Born in Tokyo, she started piano at the age of three. At the age of five, she moved to Chicago, Illinois, where he studied piano with Emilio del Rosario at the Music Institute of Chicago. She received a Bachelor of Music in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music. She completed her Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts in piano performance at the University of Southern California. Her piano teachers included Barry Snyder and John Perry. She studied conducting with Gustav Meier at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, Maryland. For more information please visit her website at www.reihotoda.com.

Rei is represented by William Reinert Associates, Inc.



Francesco Lecce-Chong
Associate Conductor
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

American conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong, currently Associate Conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, is active with the orchestral and operatic repertoires on the international stage. In his role with the MSO, Francesco works closely with renowned Music Director Edo de Waart and is directly responsible for leading over forty subscription, tour, education and community concert performances annually. During the MSO's 2012-13 season, Francesco has taken the podium for an acclaimed gala concert with Itzhak Perlman, led the orchestra through its statewide tour of Wisconsin and conducted a special three-week series at Milwaukee's Basilica of St. Josaphat.

A list of Francesco's international appearances include leading the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra (China), Pitesti Philharmonic (Romania), Ruse Philharmonic (Bulgaria), and the Sofia Festival Orchestra (Italy). Equally at ease in the opera house, Francesco has served as principal conductor for the Brooklyn Repertory Opera and as staff conductor and pianist for the Santa Fe Opera. He has earned a growing reputation and critical acclaim for dynamic, forceful performances that have garnered national distinction. Francesco is a 2012 recipient of The Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award and The Presser Foundation Presser Music Award. He is also the recipient of the N.T. Milani Memorial Conducting Fellowship and the George and Elizabeth Gregory Award for Excellence in Performance.

As a trained pianist and composer, Francesco embraces innovative programming, champions the work of new composers and, by example, supports arts education. His 2012-13 season presentations include two MSO commissioned works, two United States premieres, and twelve works by composers actively working worldwide. He brings the excitement of new music to audiences of all ages through special presentations embodying diverse program repertoire and the use of unconventional performance spaces. Mr. Lecce-Chong also provides artistic leadership for the MSO's nationally lauded Arts in Community Education program – one of the largest arts integration programs in the country. He is a frequent guest speaker at organizations around Milwaukee and hosts, *Behind the Notes*, the MSO's preconcert lecture series.

Francesco is a native of Boulder, Colorado, where he began conducting at the age of sixteen. He is a graduate of the Mannes College of Music, where he received his Bachelor of Music degree with honors in piano and orchestral conducting. Francesco also holds a diploma from the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied as a Martin and Sarah Taylor Fellow with renowned pedagogue Otto-Werner Mueller. He currently resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Follow his blog, *Finding Exhilaration*, at www.lecce-chong.com.



Lee Mills
Music Director
Towson University Orchestra

Young American conductor Lee Mills is rapidly becoming recognized as a passionate and energetic musician. At the invitation of Marin Alsop, he became the third recipient of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra-Peabody Institute Conducting Fellowship. Currently the Music Director for the Towson University Orchestra, Lee was the Founding Music Director of the Divertimento Chamber Orchestra in Walla Walla, Washington. Lee spent the summer of 2012 as a conducting fellow at the prestigious American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, where he will return again in 2013. He was one of twenty-two conductors—out of over four hundred applicants—invited to compete in the 2012 Sir Georg Solti International Conducting Competition in Frankfurt, Germany. Lee has also served as Assistant Conductor for productions Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan tutte* at the Gran Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Italy. He made his professional debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in July 2011.

A multifaceted conductor, Lee's engagements have included the Gran Teatro La Fenice, Moscow Ballet, Towson University Opera, and the Peabody Opera Theatre, as well as multiple concerts with the Peabody Singers. Mr. Mills has also conducted Whitman College Chorale and Chamber Singers in concerts internationally.

As a passionate advocate for new music, Lee has commissioned and premiered several new works. He premiered *Sketch for Orchestra* by composer Fang Man at the Cabrillo Festival in California, and has conducted for recording sessions of many brand-new works with the Peabody Symphony Orchestra and the American Academy of Conducting Orchestra at the Aspen Music Festival and School.

Having studied under Marin Alsop, Robert Spano, Gustav Meier, Edward Polochick, and Matthew Savery, Mr. Mills has participated in the Aspen Music Festival, Cabrillo Festival, Rose City International Conductors Workshop, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Conductors Guild Workshop among others.

Lee graduated *cum laude* from Whitman College, where he studied conducting with Robert Bode. Under the guidance of Marin Alsop and Gustav Meier, Lee received his Graduate Performance Diploma and Artist Diploma from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University.