MATTHEW SHEPPARD

Curriculum Vitae

Professional Experience

Danville Symphony Orchestra 2023-present

Music Director

- Craft a seven-concert season ranging from pops to classics, working with the board and administrative team to develop a budget and execute the season
- Rehearse and conduct all programs
- Engage with the community through education and service organizations, including through educational concerts, presentations, interviews, and more

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra 2023

Guest Artist

- Serve as guest conductor for *Link Up! The Orchestra Rocks* program
- Work with education, operations, and personnel team to conduct program for Milwaukee area school children

Elgin Symphony Orchestra 2020-present

Education Conductor

- Lead the Ainsworth Concerts for Youth (ACY), the ESO's annual school-day concerts that reach thousands of local students and educators
- Design a compelling program aimed at inspiring musical engagement for students
- Create a Teacher's Guide to enhance student engagement and understanding of the concert-day performances
- Conduct the ESO in all rehearsals and performances of the ACY series

Guest Conductor

- Design programs for multiple concert cycles throughout the season
- Lead rehearsals and performances

Northwestern University 2022-2023

Guest Resident Conductor (2022-23), Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra

- Lead rehearsals for the flagship orchestra of Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music
- Serve as Northwestern faculty member
- Coordinate with guest music director and guest artists
- Assist in working with graduate student conductors

Lecturer

- Teach Fundamentals of Conducting (Cond. 326)
- Develop and teach course to upperclassmen performance and education majors

Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra 2016-present

Artistic Director (2019-present), Associate Conductor (2016-2019)

- Provide artistic leadership for sixteen-person staff in implementing an engaging and comprehensive curriculum to 300 EYSO students across nine ensembles
- Create and implement long-term strategic plans and objectives to better serve our students and community, including partnerships and programs with community leaders such as Starter Strings at Oakhill Elementary School
- Conduct the top-level Youth Symphony in exploring professional-level repertoire for four performances each year; engage guest artists for performances, masterclasses, and further opportunities to serve our students

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- Coordinate with Elgin Community College (ECC) in offering graded, for-credit classes for ECC and EYSO students as an In-Residence-Ensemble at ECC
- Awarded the 2021 Youth Orchestra of the Year by the Illinois Council of Orchestras
- Awarded the 2022 Conductor of the Year by the Illinois Council of Orchestras

University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra 2014-present
Music Director and Conductor

- Conduct the 40-45 person University Chamber Orchestra in weekly rehearsals, quarterly concerts, and annual collaboration as pit orchestra for G&S Company
- Coordinate with guest artists, clinicians, and coaches to provide unique and meaningful pedagogical experiences for UChicago students
- Provide a holistic and comprehensive music and arts education to students from a variety of backgrounds as they pursue a liberal arts education, crafting and assessing students in a curriculum that is both rigorous and inspiring

The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company of Chicago 2014-present
Music Director and Conductor

- Collaborate with the company director and producers to create a unified and compelling artistic vision for each show
- Oversee and manage all musical aspects of the company's productions, including:
    - Auditioning and casting singers for all productions
    - Securing, training, and overseeing accompanists
    - Coaching and rehearsing both chorus and principals
    - Conducting all rehearsals and performances

Hyde Park Youth Symphony Orchestra 2015-present
Artistic Director

- Provide artistic leadership for three-person staff and volunteer board in implementing an engaging and comprehensive curriculum to nearly 90 HPYS students across five programs
- Create and implement long-term strategic plans and objectives to better serve our students and community, including developing and initiating partnerships and programs with community leaders such as a Community Brass Band at Progressive Beulah Pentecostal Church, a Chamber Music Program, and Starter Strings
- Conduct the top-level Youth Symphony in all rehearsals and performances

Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra 2013-2016
Assistant Conductor

- Attend all rehearsals and performances serving as on-call and off-stage conductor
- Lead rehearsals in the music director's absence, and assist in listening for balance and sound in rehearsals

Sangamon Valley Civic Orchestra and Youth Symphony 2015-2018
(now Illinois Symphony Youth Symphony)
Music Director and Conductor

- Design and direct all programming for both the Youth Symphony (students) and Civic Orchestra (adults); conduct weekly rehearsals and quarterly concerts
- Coordinate with feeder-programs to create a streamlined and integrated curriculum
- Work with the administrative staff and volunteer board to deliver the only orchestral education to Sangamon County after all string programs were cut in 1976

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Illinois 2014-2019
Lecturer

- Design semester-long courses on a variety of musical topics, including:

- *The Symphony from 1764-1953*
- *From Monteverdi to Glass: A Brief History of Opera*
- *Tone Poems: Storytelling Through Music*
- *The Insider's Guide to the Orchestra*
- *Stradivarius and Steinway: The Concerto Through the Ages*
- *Music of the Church: Passions, Requiems, and Masses*

- Lead classes in engaging and varied instructions to a musicians and musical audiences, including retired university faculty and professionals

Pine Mountain Music Festival 2015
Assistant Conductor

- Attend all rehearsals and performances serving as on-call and off-stage conductor
- Lead rehearsals in the music director's absence, and assist in listening for balance and sound in rehearsals
- Serve as orchestra manager overseeing all logistics
- Coordinate the youth Chamber Music Program/Side-By-Side

State College Summer Orchestra 2010-2013
Founding Music Director and Conductor

- Lead all artistic and administrative functions of the ensemble, including orchestra management, artistic programming, fundraising, and promotion
- Conduct rehearsals and twice-yearly performances as benefit concerts for local and international charitable organizations
- Helped commission and/or premiere works by contemporary composers, including new works by Efraín Amaya, Jon Bell, Stephen Hopkins, and George Woskob

Juniata College 2012-2013
Director of Orchestras

- Lead the Juniata College Orchestra in all rehearsals and performances
- Determine programming and assess students as part of a liberal arts curriculum

Central Pennsylvania Youth Orchestra 2009-2013
Assistant Conductor

- Lead the CPYO Chamber Orchestra, a string orchestra for developing players
- Regularly conduct the Youth Orchestra in the music director's absence, as well as lead sectionals and pull-out rehearsals
- Coordinate with the board of directors for production and orchestra management

Guest Conducting/Masterclasses

ILMEA District 2/8 Senior Orchestra 2024
Danville Symphony Orchestra 2023-2024
Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra 2023
Elgin Symphony Orchestra 2022-2023
Greater Elgin Messiah SingAlong 2022-present
Neuqua Valley School District Orchestra Clinic 2022, 2024
District 300 Chamber Orchestra Festival 2022
York Community High School Festival 2022
Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras 2020
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp International Youth Symphony Orchestra (cancelled due to COVID) 2019-2020
Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra 2018
Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra 2014-2018
Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional del Paraguay 2016, 2018, 2025

Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra 2018
Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp 2017-2019
Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra 2015-2017
University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra 2016
Conservatorio Nacional de Música, Asunción, Paraguay 2015
Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra 2015
Sangamon Valley Civic Orchestra 2014
East Central Illinois Youth Orchestra 2014

Opera, Ballet, and Musical Theater

Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company of Chicago 2014-present
Yeomen of the Guard, Princess Ida, Iolanthe, Patience, Merrie England, Time Will Tell, Pirates of Penzance, HMS Pinafore, Ruddigore

Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra 2019
Witness Reunion

Champaign Urbana Ballet Company (with the Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra) 2014-2018
The Nutcracker (annual performances)

Pine Mountain Music Festival (Assistant Conductor) 2015
The Barber of Seville

Parkland Community College 2014
Spamalot

Champaign Urbana Theatre Company 2013
A Funny Thing Happened…, Mary Poppins, The Producers

World Premieres

Concerto after Haydn by Sam Suggs (edition for chamber orchestra) Nov. 2019
University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra, Chicago, IL

Time Will Tell by Robert Pollak and Robert Ashenhurst Nov. 2019
Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Witness Reunion by Ethan Parcell April 2019
Manifest Anyway by Ethan Parcell May 2017
Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, Elgin, IL

Rain by Jake Araujo-Simon May 2015
Sextet by Noah Kahrs
Spektral Quartet, Chicago, IL

Concertante for Clarinet and Piano by Sunyeong Pak April 2015
Psychogonia by Dongryul Lee Oct. 2014
Ludimus by Kyle Shaw April 2014
UI Modern Ensemble, Champaign Urbana, IL

Ashes and Iron* by Barry Morse March 2014
**Commissioned by Dr. Nathan Mandel for the NA Saxophone Alliance, Champaign Urbana, IL*

…mit starren Fingern* by Sean Harold March 2014
**Commissioned by the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra; Champaign Urbana, IL*

Canon in D/Prelude and Fugue by Stephen Hopkins July 2013
Playroom by George Woskob
Un Camino* by Efraín Amaya
**Commissioned by Kim Cook for the State College Summer Orchestra, State College, PA*

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Concerto Piccolo: III. Allegro Vivace* by Paul Chihara
**Composed for the Penn State Viola Ensemble and NY Viola Society, NYC, NY*

Adjudications, Lectures, and Seminars

Ravinia Reach, Teach, Play professional development leader	2022-present
Wheaton Conservatory ASTA Chapter presenter	2023
ILMEA Large Group Festival Adjudicator (inaugural year)	2023
U-46 Middle School Orchestra Adjudication	2023
Illinois Council of Orchestras Panelist	2023
Illinois Music Education Conference Presenter	2023
Ravinia ReachTeachPlay Professional Development Presenter	2022-2023
ILMEA District 1 Professional Development Presenter	2021
Northern Illinois University NAfME Presenter	2020
Badger Conference Honors Orchestra Conductor	2020
Wisconsin State Music Conference Presenter	2019
Whitney Young IHSA Adjudicator	2019, 2022
ILMEA Honors Orchestra Conductor	2019
D204 Senior Organizational Festival Clinician	2019
Whitney Young Magnet School Clinician	2018
Marie Curie Metropolitan High School CPS Adjudication	2018
Illinois Council of Orchestras Annual Conference	2015
An Evening with Kurt Weill	2012

Professional Memberships

Illinois Comprehensive Musicianship Through Performance Committee *President, 2022-2024*	2017-present
Conductor's Guild	2010-present
League of American Orchestras	2011-present
Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society, Zeta Iota Chapter	2009-present
Phi Beta Kappa Society, Lambda Chapter	2009-present
Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network	2010-2019
American String Teachers' Association, Penn State Chapter	2006-2010

Education

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL — 2013 (begun)
Doctorate of Musical Arts in Orchestral Conducting (incomplete)
Teacher: Donald Schleicher
*Coursework completed

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA — 2011-2013
Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting
Teacher: Gerardo Edelstein
Thesis: *From Song to Symphony: Mahler's Retreatment of Songs in his Second Symphony*

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA — 2006-2010
Bachelor of Music, Violin Performance (Teacher: Max Zorin)
Bachelor of Music Education
Bachelor of Arts
Student Marshal, College of Arts and Architecture, Graduate with High Distinction

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