

Canton Youth Symphony Names Conductor

The Canton Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce the appointment of Eric Benjamin as conductor of the Canton Youth Symphony for the 2010-2011 season. The Director of Education for the Canton Symphony Orchestra, Lisa Boyer remarks, "*The CSO is extremely fortunate to have Eric join us as CYS conductor this season. He is a wonderfully talented musician, and his passion for music is most evident when he has the opportunity to share it with young musicians while teaching and conducting.*"

Mr. Benjamin received a Bachelor of Music in Education from New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA and later a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting also from New England Conservatory of Music. His career as a teacher and conductor began at Newton (MA) North High School while he acquired more directing and arranging experience as music director of a church music camp in Vermont.

A brief tenure as director of the Harvard Mozart Society Orchestra was curtailed by his acceptance of a position as the Resident Conductor of the Akron Symphony Orchestra, a position he held for eleven years. During that time, he served as director of the Akron Youth Symphony and appeared as guest conductor with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, Erie Philharmonic, Canton Symphony, Columbus Symphony and numerous student festivals. Mr. Benjamin recently served as Orchestra Director and Lecturer at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

Mr. Benjamin's activities as a composer and arranger have produced a catalog of varied works for orchestra, chorus and soloists. *Gift of the Magi* is an operatic treatment of the O. Henry short story classic. *Carol of the Animals* and *King John's Christmas* are works for chorus and orchestra on text by Kenneth Grahame and A. A. Milne, respectively.

Founded in 1961, the Canton Youth Symphony provides young musicians with the opportunity to rehearse and perform in a full symphony orchestra. Membership in the youth symphony is primarily intended for students in high school and junior high, but there is no minimum age requirement. Membership is by audition only. The Canton Youth Symphony rehearses weekly from September through May and performs three concerts during that time.

For more information on the Canton Symphony Orchestra or Canton Youth Symphony, please visit www.cantonsymphony.org or call 330-452-3434. The Canton Symphony Orchestra Administrative offices are located at 1001 Market Ave. N, Canton, Ohio 44702.