



JOSEPH MECHAVICH CONDUCTOR

Regarded as a conductor of authority and warmth, and known for his thoughtful and idiomatic interpretations, Joseph Mechavich is one of North America's foremost conductors. A brilliant collaborator, he is extolled for the exceptional artistry and infectious energy and joy he brings to every performance. In April of 2010, he was named Principal Conductor and Music Director for Kentucky Opera and has recently presided over

performances **Il barbiere di Siviglia** at The Washington National Opera, **Porgy and Bess** at Deutsche Oper Berlin, **Madama Butterfly** at New York City Opera and **Cendrillon** at the Aspen Music Festival. The 2011-12 season will find Mo. Mechavich conducting **Carmen**, **Le nozze di Figaro** and **The Merry Widow** for Kentucky Opera, **La bohème** for Dayton Opera, **Susannah** for The Florentine Opera, **Moby Dick** for Calgary Opera, and **Roméo et Juliette** for Florida Grand Opera. Summer of 2012 has him returning to Sugar Creek Festival and Pine Mountain Music Festival.

Critical acclaim abounds for Maestro Mechavich. He has also presided over highly recognized productions for Calgary Opera, Utah Opera, Tulsa Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Sugar Creek Festival, Pine Mountain Music Festival, Oberlin Opera Theatre, Lake George Opera Festival, Virginia Opera, Fargo-Moorhead Opera and Spokane Opera. Others companies with which he has collaborated include Austin Lyric Opera, New Orleans Opera, Mobile Opera, Nevada Opera and Berkshire Opera.

On the concert stage, Joseph Mechavich has appeared with the Florida Orchestra, The Oberlin Chamber Orchestra, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, Hartford Symphony, Waterbury Symphony, Virginia Symphony and the Sarasota Orchestra; and has shared the stage in gala performances with Denyce Graves and Angela Brown. He has collaborated on ballet productions with the Orlando Ballet, Nutmeg Ballet (CT), and Sarasota Ballet. A frequent recitalist, Mechavich has worked as a pianist in partnership with members of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Virginia Symphony and the Orlando Philharmonic.

Maestro Mechavich held the position of Principal Conductor for Opera Birmingham for six seasons (2004-10) conducting the company's productions of **Turandot**, **Madama Butterfly**, **La bohème**, **La traviata**, **Lucia di Lammermoor**, **L'elisir d'amore**, **Aida**, **La Cenerentola**, and **Il barbiere di Siviglia**. He held the position of cover conductor for The Santa Fe Opera for four seasons, was Director of Music for Orlando Opera for two seasons, and was on the music staff for The Minnesota Opera for five seasons. A native of Long Lake, Minnesota, Joseph Mechavich studied at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and the Yale University School of Music.

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Recent Conducting Experience

Kentucky Opera	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Conductor	2013
Kentucky Opera	<i>Tosca</i>	Conductor	2012
Sugar Creek Festival	<i>Madame Butterfly</i>	Conductor	2012
Pine Mountain Music Festival	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Conductor	2012
Florida Grand Opera	<i>Roméo et Juliette</i>	Conductor	2012
Florentine Opera	<i>Susannah</i>	Conductor	2012
Calgary Opera	<i>Moby Dick</i>	Conductor	2012
Kentucky Opera	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Conductor	2011
Dayton Opera	<i>La bohème</i>	Conductor	2011
Kentucky Opera	<i>Carmen</i>	Conductor	2011
Sugar Creek Festival	<i>La Fille du Regiment</i>	Conductor	2011
Calgary Opera	<i>Aida</i>	Conductor	2011
Kentucky Opera	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Conductor	2010
Kentucky Opera	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Conductor	2010
Dayton Opera	<i>Faust</i>	Conductor	2010
Oberlin Conservatory of Music	<i>Candide</i>	Conductor	2010
Opera Birmingham	<i>Aida</i>	Conductor	2010
Naples Philharmonic	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Conductor	2009
Kentucky Opera	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	Conductor	2009
The Washington National Opera	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Conductor	2009
Opera Birmingham	<i>Turandot</i>	Conductor	2009
Dayton Opera	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Conductor	2009
Tulsa Opera	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Conductor	2009
Opera Birmingham	<i>La traviata</i>	Conductor	2009
Kentucky Opera	<i>Werther</i>	Conductor	2008
Opera Birmingham	Angela Brown Concert	Conductor	2008
Utah Opera	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Conductor	2008
Aspen Music Festival	<i>Cendrillon</i>	Conductor	2008
Deutsche Oper Berlin	<i>Porgy and Bess</i>	Conductor	2008
New York City Opera	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Conductor	2008
Opera Birmingham	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Conductor	2008
Fargo-Moorhead Opera	<i>The Mikado</i>	Conductor	2007
Kentucky Opera	<i>Il trovatore</i>	Conductor	2007
The Santa Fe Opera	<i>Daphne</i>	Cover Conductor	2007
Opera Birmingham	<i>La bohème</i>	Conductor	2007
Dayton Opera	<i>Samson et Dalila</i>	Conductor	2007
Kentucky Opera	<i>Les Pêcheur des perles</i>	Conductor	2007
Opera Birmingham	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	Conductor	2007
Birmingham Music Club	Denyce Graves Concert	Conductor	2006
Fargo-Moorhead Opera	<i>Tosca</i>	Conductor	2006
The Santa Fe Opera	<i>Cendrillon</i>	Cover conductor	2006
Opera Birmingham	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Conductor	2006
Fargo-Moorhead Opera	<i>Les Pêcheur des perles</i>	Conductor	2006
Hartford Symphony	<i>The Nutcracker</i>	Conductor	2005
The Santa Fe Opera	<i>Lucio Silla</i>	Cover Conductor	2005
Opera Birmingham	<i>Aida</i>	Conductor	2005
Waterbury Symphony	<i>The Nutcracker</i>	Conductor	2004
Orlando Philharmonic	Concert	Conductor	2004
The Santa Fe Opera	<i>La Sonnambula</i>	Cover Conductor	2004
New York City Opera	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Cover Conductor	2004
Opera Birmingham	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Conductor	2004

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Selected Press Excerpts

"The orchestra under the baton of Joseph Mechavich in his FGO debut was in emotional sync with Gounod's rich swelling melodies that sound less like the Italians of the period and more like a harbinger of the accessible operettas and even musical comedy to come [**Romeo et Juliette**] "
-Sun Sentinel

" Finally, we recognize that none of the mentioned above wouldn't have achieved brilliance and distinction if it wasn't for the excellent execution of the orchestra conducted by the prestigious Joseph Mechavich. The growing quality of the orchestra and of the Maestros hired at FOG is one of their biggest triumphs [**Romeo et Juliette**] " **-El Nueva Herald**

"...The orchestra, led by guest conductor Joseph Mechavich gave the singers firm support without ever overpowering them. And it brought out the richly colored romanticism of Gounod's score, rising to its moments of prominence in the bedchamber duet of the two lovers and Juliette's collapse into a drug-induced coma... [**Romeo et Juliette**]"
-South Florida Classical Review

"The orchestra, crisply led by Joseph Mechavich, provides all the sounds of the sea, idiomatically rendering the often movie-like sound-scape into sound. This element is so pronounced that one wonders if the score is conceived as much as a cinematic sound-scape as a conventional operatic score [**Moby Dick**] "
- The Calgary Herald

Under conductor Joseph Mechavich, the Calgary Philharmonic played Heggie's music [**Moby Dick**] supportively, and the 37-voice men's chorus filled the stage with yeoman service. - **Globe and Mail**

"...The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Joseph Mechavich, accompanied the production with power and clarity..."[**Susannah**]
- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

"...Conductor Joseph Mechavich...pacing and his sense of direction over entire scenes were just right. Mechavich, the MSO, the principals and Scott Stewart's Florentine Chorus showed great communal understanding of the big scenes and their enormous rising tensions..."[**Susannah**]
- Third Coast Digest, Milwaukee, WI

"...And you could hear those Expressionist textures in the way guest conductor Joseph Mechavich—a Floyd specialist—lead the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra...was a terrific synergy...." [**Susannah**]
- Milwaukee Magazine

"..Joseph Mechavich, who is replacing an indisposed Karen Keltner, conducted with enthusiasm and the San Diego Symphony played with color in the pit..." [**Moby Dick**]
- Los Angeles Times

"...Heggie's full-bodied score is Wagnerian in scope and depth, and it gets a hearty reading in the hands of conductor Joseph Mechavich, who flew in last week to take over the baton from an ailing Karen Keltner. Mechavich just conducted "Moby-Dick" in Calgary, and his familiarity with the three-hour score helped guide the San Diego Symphony seamlessly through the tenderest and most thunderous passages..."
- North County Times (San Diego metro)

"...He [Heggie] draws on an unusually wide range of sources, from shades of Philip Glass to echoes of John Williams. At times, the score (expertly conducted by Joseph Mechavich) sounded cinematic, which seems exactly the point of this production..."[**Moby Dick**]
-San Diego Union Times

"Conductor Joseph Mechavich kept the opera [**Samson et Dalila**] moving at fever pitch, with waves of passion and power."
-Opera News

“Musically, a strength of the production is the rock-solid contribution of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra [**Aida**], which, under conductor Joseph Mechavich, provided an impressive orchestral underpinning. Mechavich drew some very fine playing, not only in the grand public scenes, but notably in the atmospheric Nile Scene and in the richly complicated dialogue duets that comprise some of the opera’s most memorable moments.” *-The Calgary Herald*

“As if to demonstrate to the fullest what KO audiences would lose, the orchestra, under the dynamic leadership of Joseph Mechavich, launched into an almost savage opening [**Butterfly**], the strings digging deeply into the music, then calming to a gentle, relaxed atmosphere to introduce the singers. Butterfly's entrance shimmered; Similar musical insights and excitement continued throughout the performance, concluding with an emotion-fraught death scene” *-Opera News*

“Conductor Joseph Mechavich, a Kentucky Opera veteran, leads the orchestra, getting both the romance and humor out of each note. The score was evocative of so many early films [**Elixir of Love**].” *- Opera News*

Maestro Joseph Mechavich captured the American folk idiom of [**Susannah**] deftly. Choral work was first-rate; "Come sinner, tonight's the night" in the Floyd literally induced chills, as any feverish revivalist interlude should. *- Opera News*

The music weaves hymns and folk tunes [**Susannah**] with a layer of dissonant 20th century harmonies, punctuated by menacing snarls from the low brass, and conductor Joseph Mechavich delivers the whole thing with both precision and dramatic heft. *-The Des Moines Register*

“Down in the orchestra pit the Dayton Philharmonic brought its own romantic glow of loveliness to the story [**L’elisir d’amore**] with as beautifully burnished a sound as possible. Conductor Joseph Mechavich wrapped the whole performance in a kind of musically magic aura that resulted in one of the very best all-round productions ever...” *-Opera News*

“Conductor Joseph Mechavich led the Louisville Orchestra [**Werther**] with exceptional verve and style, drawing some of the best playing from this ensemble in the pit that I've heard in recent outings.” *=The Courier Journal (Louisville, KY)*

“The Utah Symphony made the most of the score's exotic beauty [**Madama Butterfly**] under music director Joseph Mechavich's baton...” *-Opera News*

“...Joseph Mechavich led the Louisville Orchestra (in resplendent sound) in a vital propulsive performance [**Il Trovatore**]...” *-Opera News*

"full of boldness and keen musicianship...Joseph Mechavich conducted the Louisville Orchestra [**Il trovatore**] with terrific verve..." *The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)*

“Joseph Mechavich led a performance that was exhilarating yet precise in control. He whipped up a frenzy for the storm in the Act II [**Les Pêcheur des perles**] finale and an outpouring of religious fanaticism from the powerful KO chorus.” *-Opera News*

"...under Joseph Mechavich and the Louisville Orchestra, this uncommon work [**Les Pêcheur des perles**] emerged with an uncommonly fine account it deserved." *-The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY)*

"...**La Cenerentola** enchants with Alabama Symphony Orchestra magic...turning in crisp accompaniment with shapely phrases..." *-The Birmingham News*

Guest Faculty/Master Classes

Harrower Opera Workshop/Georgia State University Faculty 2011
St Petersburg College Vocal Seminar Master Classes 2011
Calgary Opera Emerging Artists Program Master Class 2011
University of South Florida Master Class 2011
Kentucky State University Master Class 2010
University of Louisville Master Class 2010
Voice Experience Faculty 2010
St Petersburg College Vocal Seminar Master Class 2010
The Florentine Opera Studio Artist Master Class 2010
University of Alabama/Birmingham Master Class Opera Theater 2007
Birmingham Southern College Master Class voice Department 2007
Concordia College Master Class Voice Department 2006
University of Houston Guest Faculty Coach Voice Department 2005
University of Texas Master Class Opera Theater 2005
New College of Florida Professor and Conductor New College Chorus 2003
University of South Florida Guest Faculty Coach Voice Department 2002

Education

1991-1993 Yale University School of Music
1987-1991 Oberlin College Conservatory of Music

References

David Roth, General Director
Kentucky Opera
323 West Broadway
Suite 601
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 584-4500

Christina C. Scheppelmann, Director of Artistic Operations
Washington National Opera
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 301
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 295-2420

Tom Bankston, General Director
Dayton Opera
138 N. Main Street
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 228-0662