



*Photo credit: Stark Photography*

## Norman Huynh, conductor

American conductor Norman Huynh continues to build a reputation as one of classical music's most adventurous ambassadors. Hailed for the exuberance with which he leads orchestras across Europe, Asia, and North America, Huynh's ability to attract new audiences to the orchestra has received equal renown. The 2020 season inaugurated his tenure as Music Director of the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra, joining an existing appointment as Associate Conductor for the Oregon Symphony.

Huynh has attained international prominence in the first years of his career, most recently through an invitation to the Bruno Walter Young Conductor Preview, a selective showcase hosted by the League of American Orchestras. He maintains an active guest conducting schedule, with recent and upcoming engagements including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony

Orchestra, Rochester Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfónica del Vallés (Spain), and the Princess Galyani Vadhana Youth Orchestra of Thailand. In addition, Norman has worked with both the New York Philharmonic and for John Williams of the Los Angeles Philharmonic as a cover conductor.

As a music director, Huynh's sharp focus on winning over new audiences reflects his own entry point to classical music—namely as a 12-year old “band geek” trombonist in Alabama. Now the first in his family to pursue orchestral music as a career, the euphonium player turned maestro continues to find ways to create these same entry points for others, whether through outreach initiatives or bold concert programming.

While still a student at Peabody, he co-founded the Occasional Symphony after a successful Kickstarter campaign raised \$5,000, built to celebrate holidays in modern settings, with examples including Dr. Seuss' birthday at a children's museum, Halloween in a burnt church, and Cinco de Mayo in the basement bar of a Mexican restaurant.

This track record would extend to existing legacy organizations. As the Assistant Conductor of the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra, Huynh not only visited 60 public schools in helping its Musical Explorer's Program, but also founded “Symphony and Spirits”, a routinely sold-out concert series for an under-40 audience. His accomplishments would earn him the 2015 Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award, awarded “in recognition of innovative approaches to music education.” More importantly, both the Occasional Symphony and the programs he began at the PSO continue to thrive to this day.

In addition to outreach, Huynh has found success through programming with unique crossover collaborations, taking bows throughout his career with artists like Smokey Robinson, Wyclef Jean, Boyz II Men, Gregory Alan Isakov, and many others in the R&B, hip-hop, and pop genres. Additionally, Huynh has received growing acclaim for his work leading live film soundtracks, ranging from

Spielberg classics, *An American in Paris*, and special performances of the Harry Potter films in Barcelona and Madrid.

Selected for private mentorship by the late maestro Kurt Masur as a Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Scholarship recipient, Huynh is also an alumnus of both the Tanglewood Music Festival and the Aspen Music Festival Conducting Academy, where he studied with Robert Spano. Other teachers who have made a profound impact are Demondrae Thurman, John Ratledge, Adrian Gnam, Gustav Meier, Markand Thakar, and Marin Alsop.

A proud first generation Asian-American, Norman makes his home in Bozeman, Montana, where he enjoys stargazing, skiing, and riding his motorcycle.