

Conductor Bio

Critics repeatedly praise conductor Roger Briggs' performances using words like "dazzling", "vibrant" "brilliant" and "masterful". He has guest conducted in Europe and the United States, and recorded with such internationally renown orchestras as the London Symphony, the Czech Radio Symphony, and the Prague Symphony--for a total discography of six CD releases. He continues to work with outstanding guest artist such as Leon Fleisher, Ursula Oppens, Jennifer Koh, Evelyn Glennie, Orion Weiss, Alicia Weilerstein, and Corey Cerovsek.

Mr. Briggs is currently the Artistic Director of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra in Bellingham, Washington and has held that position since 1996. Under his leadership the orchestra has expanded from a community orchestra to an award winning, critically acclaimed, regional orchestra, drawing large, enthusiastic audiences from throughout the state of Washington and southern British Columbia. He founded the Whatcom Symphony Chamber Orchestra, the Music by American Composers commissioning series, the Chamber Music NOW program, and has assisted in establishing an impressive orchestral/educational outreach program in the Bellingham area.

Mr. Briggs is equally at home with contemporary scores, founding the Michiana New Music Ensemble in South Bend, IN, and the Contemporary Chamber Players at Western Washington University. Mr. Briggs has guest conducted established contemporary ensembles such as The New Performance Group, Sonora, Zephyr, and Fear No Music.

Dr. Briggs, who has served on the faculty of Western Washington University since 1989, was born in Florence, Alabama in 1952. Briggs was educated at the University of Memphis, receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition and Piano Performance. He continued his studies at the Eastman School of Music, receiving a Masters Degree and a Ph.D. in Music

Composition. He studied conducting with Gustav Meier and composition with Samuel Adler, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, and Pulitzer Prizewinning composers Joseph Schwanter and Ned Rorem.