

ECKART PREU

Eckart Preu (rhymes with joy) is Music Director of the Long Beach Symphony, the Portland Symphony (ME), and Summermusik, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra.

Previously, he held positions of Music Director with the Spokane Symphony (WA) and Stamford Symphony (CT), and served as Associate Conductor of the Richmond Symphony (VA), and Resident Conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra (NY). In Europe, Mr. Preu was Music Director of the Orchestre International de Paris.

His guest conducting engagements have included concerts with the Jerusalem Symphony (Israel), Auckland Philharmonia (New Zealand), Philharmonic Orchestra of Jalisco (Mexico), Philharmonic Orchestra of Bogota (Columbia), State Orchestra in Halle (Germany), Christchurch Symphony (New Zealand), and multiple appearances with the Symphony Orchestra of Chile, and the Symphony Orchestra of Tenerife (Spain).
As guest conductor in the US, he has appeared with the American Symphony, Knoxville Symphony, Eugene Symphony, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Delaware Symphony, Duluth Superior Symphony, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, Wichita Symphony, New Mexico Philharmonic, and others.

Career highlights include performances at Carnegie Hall, the Sorbonne in Paris, and projects with Violins of Hope in Cincinnati, Long Beach, and Portland.

His commercial recordings include the world premiere of “Letters from Lincoln” by Michael Daugherty, featuring baritone soloist Thomas Hampson, and a CD featuring music by living Mexican composers with the Portland Symphony (works by Arturo Marquez, Ana Lara, and Enrico Chapela).

Mr. Preu has collaborated with internationally renowned soloists including Yo-Yo Ma, Midori, Arturo Sandoval, Sarah Chang, Pepe Romero, Stephen Hough, Evelyn Glennie, Anne Akiko Meyers, Jeremy Denk, Leila Josefowicz, Randall Goosby, and many others.

His concerts have been described as “exciting, educational, and entertaining at the same time”. He has been praised as a gifted communicator on and off the stage.

Fostering deep connections with communities he developed programs for live streaming into hospitals, he also created collaborations with musical and non-musical entities, arts organizations, and community leaders to engage underserved segments of the population like the award-winning “Khmeraspora” project in Long Beach (engaging the large Cambodian population), the “We Are One” series in Cincinnati (in collaboration with the African American community), “Little Amal” (refugee community), or “Violins of Hope” (Jewish community).



As a civic leader and dedicated representative of his organizations, Mr. Preu has helped to raise funds for the $32 million renovation of the Fox Theater in Spokane and many other projects, recordings, commissions, endowment, and annual campaigns.

A native of Germany, Mr. Preu studied conducting at the Hochschule für Musik in Weimar under Gunter Kahlert and under Jean-Sebastien Bereau at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris in France. Mr. Preu's education was made possible by scholarships from the Herbert von Karajan Foundation, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the French Ministry of Culture.

Eckart Preu's early musical training was in piano and voice. At the age of 10, he became a member of the Boys Choir Dresdner Kreuzchor and went on to work with them as soloist, rehearsal pianist, and Assistant Conductor.