

Festival Clinician

CHARLES PELTZ

Conductor of Wind Ensembles at the New England Conservatory
Music Director of the Glens Falls Symphony



Exciting performances in an extraordinarily wide range of repertoires are the marks of conductor Charles Peltz. Early in his career as principal conductor of Musicisti Americani, his performances drew the enthusiastic praise of the Italian press: “He draws haunting sounds from the orchestra...in finely judged performances.” The American press is equally impressed noting “a special sensitivity which Peltz clearly has” and that “this opera was an aural delight, one was tempted to close one’s eyes and just listen.” And in South America “he is a fiesta for eyes and ears.” His collaborations with artists from a wide world of music show the range of his work - from John Cage to Jose Ferrer, from Lukas Foss to Howard Shore, from Sarah Chang to Richard Hyman.

In over two decades as music director the Glens Falls Symphony, he has brought ever growing audiences innovative and diverse programming in live performance and radio broadcast. His commitment to music of our time is best shown by the Symphony’s lead role in the American Orchestra League’s Made in America commissioning project and by further collaborations with composers including Joan Tower, Jennifer Higdon, Joseph Schwantner and Michael Gandolfi. During the same period Peltz has been director of the internationally recognized New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble, which has premiered its own catalog of new works, including those by Gunther Schuller, Michael Colgrass and Michael Gandolfi. The NECWE has recorded commercially and has performed through invitation at Carnegie Hall and the National Arts Centre of Canada.

His international career began early as co-founder of the Musicisti Americani festival in Italy and has continued with orchestras and professional wind ensembles in Europe, South America and Asia. His North American engagements have included the Buffalo and Hamilton Philharmonic, the Pacific and Syracuse Symphony. His new music engagements included regular appearances in the North American New Music Festival and the 2000 Lincoln Center Festival. He has eight recordings on the MODE label, one of which earned a French palm d’or.

As a conductor of musical theater in Boston he received six nominations as Best Music Director by the Independent Reviewers of New England, winning the award for a nationally recognized production of Showboat; the Boston Globe saying his work was “eye-and ear -popping professional....spirited and sumptuous”. As resident director the Greater Buffalo Opera company and other companies he has led productions ranging from Mozart to Weill, Puccini to Menotti, Strauss to Britten.

A committed educator he has held positions at Harvard, Ithaca College, SUNY at Buffalo as well as at NEC. His conducting students are appearing with major orchestras in the United States and Europe. His teaching awards include the Krasner Award at NEC and the Plesure Award at SUNY AB. Peltz served twenty years as Director of the Orchestras at the summer Luzerne Music Center, teaching an international array of students. As a staff member of the Syracuse Symphony, he led their Youth Orchestra for six seasons. He has every year led All-State and other honors orchestras and bands across the country.

His service to music and community includes an invitation from Michael Kamen to be a founding member of the Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation Board, on which he served for a decade. He co-founded the Gunther Schuller Society promoting the legacy of that essential musician. Peltz has served as a Divisional President of the CBDNA, having produced two ground-breaking conferences. He serves as well as an elder at Boston’s historic Park Street Church.

