

JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ - Dirigent

JOSEPH R. OLEFIROWICZ – was born 1972 in Methuen, Massachusetts. Following completion of his degree in conducting for musical theatre and opera at *Ithaca College*, he came to Europe as an orchestra member of the European Tour of Bernstein's *On the Town*, followed by an appointment as Associate Conductor of the *Capitol Theater* in Düsseldorf and his 1995 debut at New York's *Oswego Opera Theatre*, leading Menotti's *Medium* and Schuman's *The Mighty Casey*. Soon after this, he would be appointed principal conductor of commercial musical theatres in Bochum, Stuttgart and Berlin – where he led the German companies of *Starlight Express*, *Miss Saigon*, Disney's *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (world premiere production) and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (as guest).



In 2003, he gave his European opera debut as conductor of Cherubini's *Lodoïska* (and later Verdi's *Aïda*) at the *Nordhausen Opera*, preceding a tenure as First Kappellmeister – This led to a wide repertory of opera, operetta, musical theatre, ballet and symphonic literature together with the *Loh-Orchester Sondershausen*.

In 2005, he was presented with an Emmy Craft Citation from the *Academy of Television Arts and Sciences* for his work as Music and Choral Supervisor for the NBC/Hallmark Television film of Menken and Ahrens' *A Christmas Carol*, serving also as session pianist with the *Budapest Film Orchestra*. International press proclaimed Olefirowicz 2006 "Operetta Conductor of the Year" following the first post-WWII revival of Benatzky's 1929 Operetta *Die Drei Musketiere* in Nordhausen. Continued work as a guest conductor worldwide embraces a wide swath of repertory. Concert collaborations include artists Lucia Aliberti, Feruccio Furlanetto, Angelika Kirschlager, KS Jennifer O'Loughlin, Christine Brewer, Mikhail Pletnev, Albina Shagimuritova and *Tony-winner* Paulo Szot, among others.

At the *Vienna Volksoper*, he served as guest conductor between 2008 and 2019. A revival of *Anatevka* served as his Vienna debut, followed by season-after-season of successful premiere productions including Loesser's *Guys and Dolls*, Bernstein's *Candide* (where he became the "Dancing Conductor" internet sensation), the 2015 Austrian Musiktheater prize-winning production of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, and the renown 2019 concert production of Gershwin's

iconic opera, *Porgy and Bess*.

On the concert stage, he has conducted in the *Warsaw Philharmonic*, *Munich Philharmonic at Gasteig*, *Prinzregententheater Munich*, *Tschaikovsky Concert Hall Moscow*, *Zaryadye Concert Hall Moscow*, *Hannover State Opera*, *Schloss Sondershausen*, *Leipzig State Opera*, *Berlin State Opera*, and *Springfield Symphony Hall (USA)*. Collaborations include the *Springfield Symphony Orchestra*, *Symphony New Hampshire*, *Braunschweig State Orchestra*, *Munich Symphoniker*, *Lower Saxony State Orchestra*, *Moscow's Russian National Orchestra*, *Warsaw National Philharmonic and Choir*, *Orchestra of the Musikalische Komödie Leipzig* and the *Deutsches Filmorchester Babelsberg*.

His ongoing relationship as guest conductor with the *Munich Radio Orchestra* and most recently the *Bavarian Radio Choir* has produced the acclaimed 2024 German Premiere of the Runestad *Earth Symphony*, the 2022 internationally-televised *70th Anniversary concert* of the orchestra, as well as the 2018 European premiere of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. His recent live concert work of Runestad's *Earth Symphony* is planned for future release on the *BR-Klassik* label.

During the pandemic- which canceled many concerts and projects worldwide for several years- Olefirowicz utilized this time to pursue a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology at the *Saint Joseph College of Maine*. Olefirowicz is also an internationally-acclaimed concert organist and has served over sixteen years as Artistic Director of the award-winning *First Music Concert Series* and as Kirchenmusikdirektor at *The First Church of Nashua*.

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