

Vance Y. George is recognized internationally as one of the world's leading choral conductors. He has conducted throughout the U.S. as well as Europe, Australia and Asia. Most recently he conducted concerts in Salzburg, Austria, Sydney, Australia, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Spokane, Washington, Indianapolis, Indiana, Akron, Ohio, the Berkshire Choral Festival and the Ventura Bach Festival.

His unique range of musical styles, knowledge of languages, mastery of vocal colors, and synthesis of the choral-orchestral tradition has been lauded by audiences, critics, and conductors. Perhaps composer Conrad Susa says it best "Vance creates a choral sound that is unique to each work he's asked to perform." His work embodies the legacy of the great maestros and mentors he has known as protégé and colleague, especially Kurt Masur, John Nelson, Helmut Rilling, Edo de Waart, Herbert Blomstedt, Michael Tilson Thomas, Robert Shaw, Julius Herford, Margaret Hillis, Robert Page, Otto Werner-Mueller, and Mary Oyer.

Born into a farm community in Northern Indiana, near Chicago, his musical training began at Goshen College followed by teaching and conducting adventures in Mussoorie in Northern India at Woodstock School, at the University of Wisconsin, then as Associate Director of the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, the Blossom Festival School, Kent State University and The San Francisco Symphony.

During his twenty three years as conductor with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus the group was hailed as one of the finest in the world. On their behalf he accepted two Grammy awards for Best Choral Performances in 1992 and 1995 for Orff's *Carmina burana* and Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*. Other Grammy-winning recordings featuring the San Francisco Symphony Chorus include Stravinsky's *Perséphone*, Mahler's *Third Symphony*. A televised production of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, a video/DVD, won an Emmy award. Additionally the Chorus received Grammy nominations for its recording of Mahler's *Second Symphony* and the disc *Christmas By The Bay*. The discography of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus under Vance George's direction includes *Voices 1900-2000*, a choral journey through the 20th century; John Adams's *Harmonium*, with the composer conducting; Mahler's *Das Klagende Lied*; Grieg's *Peer Gynt*; and a Brahms collection, featuring *Naenie* and *Schicksalslied*. Film soundtracks featuring the chorus include *Amadeus*, *Godfather II* and *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*.

Vance George took Sir Charles Mackerras's place on the podium when Mackerras fell ill during performances of Handel's *Solomon* and for Edo de Waart during performances of the Mozart edition of Handel's *Messiah*. George's own concerts with the San Francisco forces include Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and *Messiah* plus a host of seasonal and pops concerts.

His performances encompass the major choral/orchestral repertoire

including the *Passions* of Bach, the choral works of Brahms, Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, and Haydn, Verdi, Faure, Poulenc and Stravinsky. Other 20 th century composers include Schoenberg, Walton, Vaughn Williams, Penderecki Lutoslawski, and Meredith Monk. .

Highly regarded as a teacher of conducting Vance George has taught and presented workshops and lectures at many Universities including the University of Wisconsin, Indiana University, Eastman School of Music, The San Francisco Conservatory, Cincinnati Conservatory, Kent State University and the University Berkeley-California. He has written on the subject of conducting for *The Cambridge Companion to Conducting*, Cambridge University Press, 2003. His article *Choral Colors* appeared in the American Choral Director's Journal, October, 2007.

A graduate of Goshen College and Indiana University, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Musical Arts by Kent State University and a Lifetime Achievement award by Chorus America. He has served on the Board of Chorus America and the National Endowment of the Arts.