MM and DMA in Orchestra/Opera Conducting

The ASU School of Music, Dance and Theatre announces one assistantship opening for fall 2022 in either the Master of Music (emphasis in orchestral conducting) or Doctor of Musical Arts in Music (emphasis in orchestra and opera conducting) programs.

OVERVIEW: One of the most competitive and comprehensive graduate programs in the United States, graduate conductors work closely with the director of orchestras, as well as the artistic director of Music Theatre and Opera, and gain a breadth of experience in both orchestral and opera conducting. Conductors also become acquainted with the wind and choral literature through study with major teachers in those areas. Graduate conductors have frequent and significant podium time in performance and rehearsal, as well as twice-weekly sessions with the ASU Studio Orchestra (string quartet, wind quintet and two pianos). Graduate conductors have numerous opportunities to work with internationally-recognized guest artists as well as rehearsal observation and cover opportunities with The Phoenix Symphony. Each year one graduate conductor is chosen to be the assistant conductor of the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras. DMA and MM conductors leave ASU prepared to become impactful arts leaders as conductors and educators. Recent graduates have won appointments such as music director of the Vermont Youth Orchestra; assistant conductor of the National Repertory Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, Sarasota Opera, and Seattle Symphony; resident conductor of the American Youth Symphony in Los Angeles, director of orchestras at Cornell University, and cover conductor of numerous professional ensembles including the Seattle Opera and LA Operas.

ASSISTANTSHIP: Graduate teaching assistants will function as the assistants to the ASU Orchestras (Symphony, Chamber, Music Theatre and Opera, and Philharmonia), covering and performing frequently with the major ensembles of the School of Music, Dance and Theatre. Teaching assistants receive tuition remission covering the non-resident portion of tuition, 50% reduction in the resident portion of tuition, and $4640 stipend per fall and spring semester, distributed throughout the course of the semester as a bi-weekly paycheck.

FACULTY: Jeffery Meyer – DMA, MM SUNY Stony Brook, BM Lawrence Conservatory. DAAD grant recipient for study in Leipzig, Germany. Artistic Director and Founder, St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic (Russia).

Brian DeMaris – MM New England Conservatory, BM Ithaca College. Music Director, Mill City Summer Opera; Principal Conductor, Anchorage Opera; Artist-Faculty, Aspen Music Festival.

APPLICATION: Applicants must complete all requirements for admission by December 1, 2021, including a prescreening video. Finalists may be asked for additional materials and will be invited to ASU for an in-person audition in the last week of February 2022. The audition will include an interview, written tests, aural examinations, and conducting. International applicants from non-English speaking countries must have acceptable TOEFL scores as required for admission to ASU.

ABOUT THE ASU ORCHESTRAS: The ASU Orchestras are a part of the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, the largest comprehensive design and arts school in the nation, located within a dynamic 21st-century research university. One of the top orchestral programs in the United States, the ASU Orchestras explore the vast creative range of today’s contemporary orchestra and bring their audiences an engaging variety of masterworks, new music, groundbreaking guest artists, multi-media collaborations and award-winning programing. The ASU Orchestras are creating a new model for professional and pre-professional arts organizations that values the diverse potential of human creativity. The program is committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion through music and the arts.