



Conductor Robert Franz Wins Arts Leadership Award



*Conductor Robert Franz
Photo by J. Henry Fair*

The Windsor Endowment for the Arts recently recognized Conductor Robert Franz with its Arts Leadership Award in Performing Arts. The awards are presented to prominent artists who foster a vibrant local arts community. Franz says he is honored to be a recipient of this award as it represents an intense commitment on the part of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra to continually reach out to the next generation of Windsorites, adding he feels very fortunate to have such a talented orchestra and open community in which to make music. This year the WSO celebrated its 70th season and enjoyed its best year including a record seven sold-out performances. Franz, who just completed his fifth season as WSO's Music Director, has initiated interactive concerts with audience members and has

been instrumental in diversifying WSO's education programs. Recent achievements include collaborations with the Windsor International Film Festival, the Art Gallery of Windsor, the Canadian Historical Aviation Association and the University of Windsor.

The WSO's 2018/2019 season will showcase Franz's versatility with programs such as the Canadian premiere of Heather Schmidt's *Lunar Reflections* (full orchestra version), first performances by the WSO of Debussy's *Printemps* and Strauss' *Metamorphosen*, along with the world premiere of *Scylla, Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra* by composer Jordan Pal. In addition to the Windsor Symphony, Franz also serves as Music Director of the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Orchestra where he will lead a series of concerts joined by several conducting fellows from across the US who attend his conducting workshop. In his role as Associate Conductor of the Houston Symphony, Franz will conduct Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances* and the winner of the 2018 Ima Hogg Competition. He will also continue to lead HSO's popular Neighborhood Concert Series. As the Founder and Music Director of the Idaho Orchestra Institute, now in its second year, Robert Franz oversees an intensive experience designed for college and advanced high school musicians. The program, focused on developing the complete artist, takes young musicians on an exploration of major orchestral repertoire while developing a deeper connection with their core artist. Committed to music education to students of all ages, he led the first ever Conductor's Guild Workshop to train conductors in the art of creating and presenting effective student concerts.



*Robert Franz receiving Arts Leadership Award
Photo by Mike Kovaliv*



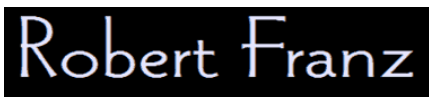
Robert Franz conducts the WSO

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Franz's appeal as a first-rate conductor and enthusiastic award-winning educator is acclaimed by critics, composers and audiences of all ages. In increasing demand as a guest conductor, he has appeared with The Cleveland Orchestra, the Baltimore, Phoenix and St. Louis Symphonies, and the Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina in Italy. With a wide and varying knowledge of symphonic and operatic works, Maestro Franz has worked with some of today's finest classical soloists, including James Galway, Joshua Bell and Rachel Barton Pine, as well as top pops artists such as Chris Botti, Idina Menzel and the Canadian Brass.

To learn more about Robert Franz, visit www.robertfranz.com

A wonderful selection of hi res images are available for your use at www.robertfranz.com/press



For booking, contact Martha Woods, President Martha@jwentworth.com or **301-277-8205**



If you would like to speak with Robert Franz about his musical vision, conducting workshop or arts education please contact, Genevieve Spielberg at **908-608-1325** or genevieve@gsiartists.com



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