



## Conductor Robert Franz Receives Visionary Leadership Award From Houston Symphony



Credit: J Henry Fair

This weekend, **Conductor Robert Franz** was honored as the first member of the **Houston Symphony** conducting staff with the Raphael Fliegel Award for Visionary Leadership. The award was presented to Franz in recognition of his immense success in advancing the organization's educational and community engagement activities.

Under his enthusiastic leadership as Associate Conductor of the Houston Symphony, audiences for the David Dewhurst Student Concert Series have grown from 40,000 to 60,000. He is also well-known for conducting the Symphony's Family Series, and the Symphony's summer neighborhood concert series, bringing music such as the world premiere of *School House Rock* for orchestra to audiences of all ages.



L to R: Robert Franz, John Rydman, Lindy Rydman, Sybil Roos at the Houston Symphony awards ceremony.

Credit: Priscella Dickson.

Franz also serves as Music Director of the **Windsor Symphony Orchestra** where his contract was recently renewed through 2019. Since his appointment 3 years ago, Franz has built strong in-roads in the community, focusing on broadening partnerships with organizations such as the University of Windsor, St. Clair College, the Canadian Historical Aircraft Association and HNM Dance Company. Highlights of his 2015-16 season include sold out performances of *La Boheme* as part of an opera festival, the Canadian chamber opera, *Pat and Emilia* and a highly acclaimed Mozart mini-festival.



Robert Franz conducts the Windsor Symphony in *La Boheme*

This season is Franz' seventh as Music Director of the **Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Orchestra**, where he will conduct the world premiere with the Fairbanks Festival Chorus of *Mass for the Oppressed* by Emerson Eads. Franz will also continue his Art of Conducting workshop to help conductors develop technique and personal artistry.



Robert Franz conducting the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Orchestra



Photo Credit: Nakari

Franz completed his 8-year tenure as Music Director of the **Boise Philharmonic** this spring where he is credited with creating a swell of optimism for the orchestra and for expanding the breadth of performance to include community groups in imaginative ways and creating programming to engage more young people than ever before. In honor of his final concert there, the Orchestra musicians praised Franz, saying, "his incredible musicianship is evident, but more than that, his passion, enthusiasm, positivity, and generosity of spirit have made our lives better, and for that, he will be missed."

Hailed for his "extremely musical and passionate approach towards music making" and "masterly pace, emphasis, and technical control." Franz is in increasing demand as a guest conductor. This coming season, Franz will guest conduct the **Phoenix Symphony** for 5 weeks. Other upcoming and recent guest conducting engagements include the Cleveland Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Victoria Symphony, and the Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina in Italy. Continuing his commitment to working with young musicians, next season he will lead the Kentucky All-State Orchestra and in Windsor, the first ever Conductor's Guild Workshop to train conductors in the art of creating and presenting effective student concerts.

To learn more about Robert Franz, visit [www.RobertFranz.com](http://www.RobertFranz.com)



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