



## Conductor Robert Franz's Enthusiasm and Dedication to His Craft Inspires a New Generation of Audiences



**Robert Franz** is a conductor to watch in the 2014-15 season with a growing reputation as a music director, educator, audience builder and innovative programmer. As Music Director of the **Boise Philharmonic** and **Windsor Symphony Orchestra** and Associate Conductor of the **Houston Symphony** he is hailed for his "extremely musical and passionate approach towards music making" and "masterly pace, emphasis, and technical control."

In increasing demand as a guest conductor, Franz's recent guest conducting highlights include debuts with the **Baltimore Symphony**, **St. Louis Symphony**, **The Cleveland Orchestra** and the **Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina** in Italy.

### Following are highlights of this 2014-15 season:

#### Boise Philharmonic

Robert Franz brings a broad range of music to audiences in Boise in the 2014-15 season including the world premiere of Lawrence Dillon's *Poke*, a double bass/cello concerto co-commissioned for the group Low and Lower that weaves text messaging and classical music, the orchestra's first performance of Bruckner's *Symphony No. 7* and Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet*. Reaching out to the community, Franz's Casual Classics Series has transformed into an 8-concert chamber music series called, **Music in Sacred Spaces**, featuring the orchestra musicians and guest artists. Of particular note is a performance of Eric Ewazen's *Classical Concerto for Tenor Saxophone* as well as his *Tenor Saxophone Quintet with strings*. This summer was the orchestra's third season of **Picnic at the Pops**, which attracts sellout crowds of families and has attracted new and diverse audiences.



#### Windsor Symphony Orchestra (Canada)

Starting his second season as Music Director of the Windsor Symphony, Franz, who successfully **increased the number of subscription concerts** from 11 to 14 in his first year, is focusing on broadening **community partnerships**. Collaborations this season include the Canadian Historical Aviation Association, Art Gallery of Windsor, St. Clair College, University of Windsor and The Windsor International Film Festival. The 2014 season opened with the debut of Canadian astronaut and folk guitarist, **Chris Hadfield** performing original works inspired by his experiences in space. Later in the season, Franz programs innovative themed concerts such as **Wright Flight** in February featuring Canadian composer Jordon Pal's *On the Double: Concert Overture*, Lawrence Dillon's *Wright Flight* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 4*; and **Dreyer's Joan of Arc** in March featuring the film *La Pasion de Jeanne d'Arc* and Richard Einhorn's *Voices of Light*.



#### Houston Symphony

As Associate Conductor of the Houston Symphony, Franz leads the Symphony in a broad range of creative educational and family concerts. Before the season started, the orchestra **sold out ALL education concerts** for the 14-15 season, expected to bring in 55,000 students. Franz galvanizes young audiences with programming such as the world premiere of music from the iconic TV series *School House Rock* for orchestra.



**To learn more about Robert Franz and to view his schedule:**



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