



January 23, 2012

Community Music School Announces David Commanday as New Conductor of The Young People's Symphonic Orchestra



The Community Music School of Webster University (CMS) is pleased to announce **David Commanday** as the new conductor of the Young People's Symphonic Orchestra (YPSO). Commanday follows former YPSO conductor Richard Holmes who passed away in June 2011 after serving as the conductor from 1999-2011. Established over 25 years ago, the Young People's Symphonic Orchestra is the most advanced of the School's orchestras.

Patrick Jackson, conductor of the CMS Young People's Concert Orchestra and member of the search committee, expressed that he was impressed with Commanday's background and especially how he interacted with the orchestra during his audition. The conductor candidates were given several measures of music to prepare and work on with the

ensemble, "during Commanday's audition he changed the sound of the entire orchestra and captured the essence of the music in just a few measures."

David Commanday is Artistic Director of the Heartland Festival Orchestra based in Washington, Illinois. He and the orchestra were named the Illinois Professional Orchestra and Conductor of the Year 2011 by the Illinois Council of Orchestras. Commanday has guest-conducted orchestras around the world, and his posts have included Music Director Boston Ballet, Associate Conductor New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and Music Director, Peoria Symphony Orchestra. He is an accomplished cellist, and continues to perform and teach.

David Commanday has a great dedication to young musicians, having most recently served as Artistic Director of the New Jersey Youth Symphony. As Music Director of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras he was praised for its outstanding performances, world premieres, recordings, international tours, and 3 ASCAP awards.

Commanday has held faculty positions and conducted at Harvard University, Boston University, MIT, and Montclair State and Virginia Commonwealth Universities. He is active as a teaching and conducting clinician, conducting All-State and regional student orchestras as well as consulting internationally.

The Community Music School is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, and is a certified member of the National Guild for Community Arts Education. The Community Music School receives assistance from the Arts and Education Council of Greater Saint Louis and support from the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis.

