

Guest Conductor - Dr. Mark A. Laycock

2011 Fulton County High School Honor Orchestra



Dr. Mark Laycock is an Associate Professor of Music at Wichita State University, where he holds the Ann Walenta Faculty of Distinction Endowed Professorship. In 2007, he was recognized with the College of Fine Arts Excellence in Teaching Award. He serves as Director of Orchestras and Coordinator of Strings. WSU Symphony Orchestra appearances under his direction include the 2008 International Festival of Youth Orchestras in Zaragoza, Spain, a May 2011 concert at Carnegie Hall, and multiple invited performances at Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshops. Dr. Laycock is a member of the Board of Directors of the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. His work as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator spans 20 states, including the leadership of all-state, regional, and district honor orchestras; recent and upcoming engagements encompass Oklahoma, Illinois, Nebraska, and Missouri, as well as the Washington All-State Orchestra. He is an adjudicator for the 2011 National Orchestra Festival and a clinician for the 2012 National Orchestra Festival. His appearances with professional ensembles include the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Wichita Grand Opera, and Opera Kansas, as well as orchestras in Slovakia and Canada. Dr. Laycock has presented clinic sessions for state education conferences in Arizona, Kansas, and Oklahoma, as well as at the American String Teachers Association National Conference, the Northwest Division Convention of the Music Educators National Conference, and the Midwest Clinic. He served as Director of Orchestras and Instrumental Music at Chapman University in Orange, California, where he led invited performances for the California Music Educators Association and at Disneyland. He was also Principal Conductor of the Irvine (CA) Classical Players, leading the youth orchestra on concert tours to France (2008) and Italy (2006). From 1998-2003, Dr. Laycock served as Director of Orchestral Activities at Iowa State University and was Music Director of the Central Iowa Symphony. Under his leadership, the ISU Symphony Orchestra performed at the North Central Division Convention of the Music Educators National Association and collaborated with such artists as bass-baritone Simon Estes and pianist-composer Marvin Hamlisch. He earned a Doctor of Arts degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Laycock holds a Master of Music degree in instrumental conducting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music history and literature from the University of Southern California. An experienced educator, he was an instructor of strings and orchestra at the middle and high school levels in the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada.