

# ANTHONY LAGRUTH

alagruth@aol.com | 201.745.6128 | anthonylagruth.com

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American conductor Anthony LaGruth has delighted audiences and critics alike with many exciting performances recognized for their innovative presentation of orchestral music. Roxanne Orgill of the Bergen Record (NJ) observed that, "Mr. LaGruth conducts with subtlety and a refined sense of style that is refreshing." The Ellsworth American (Maine) noted his "...control, musicianship, and involvement with the music.", and Michael Greenberg of the San Antonio Express-News said, "Maestro LaGruth brought crisp definition, dramatic sensitivity, and stylishly flexible tempos to the score." A versatile musician, Mr. LaGruth has shown that he is equally at home leading orchestral, operatic, and choral ensembles. He is currently serving as the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Garden State Philharmonic (NJ) and the Shrewsbury Chorale (NJ).

Mr. LaGruth has worked with some of the greatest composers of our age, including Hans Werner Henze, John Corigliano, and Pulitzer Prize winner Karel Husa, and has collaborated with a wide range of soloists including Frederica von Stade, Judith Ingolfsson, Philip Smith, Christopher Collins Lee, and Neil Sedaka.

A proponent of American music, Mr. LaGruth is a co-founder of the League of American Orchestras' commissioning project; Made in America. This program offers regional orchestras throughout the country the opportunity to commission works by major American composers. This project made its debut in 2005 to national acclaim with a work by Joan Tower, with 65 orchestras representing all 50 states. Mr. LaGruth recently made his European debut in Romania leading concerts with several orchestras including the state philharmonics of Satu Mare, Botosani, and Raumnica Valcea. He also made his Lincoln Center debut leading a young artists concerto concert at Alice Tully Hall.

Noted by his colleagues for his rapport with audiences, Mr. LaGruth builds relationships with his listeners through many outreach programs and his popular pre-concert discussions, Musically Speaking. Whether educating and entertaining students in a Music for Young People concert or chatting informally with audience members, Mr. LaGruth finds innovative ways to bridge the gap between new audiences and classical music.

An honors graduate of Ithaca College, Mr. LaGruth earned a master's degree in orchestral conducting and a bachelor degree in composition. He also attended the world-renowned Pierre Monteux School for Conductors, where he was a conducting fellow under the tutelage of Charles Bruck and Michael Jinbo. Mr. LaGruth has enjoyed a close association with the Pierre Monteux School and has served on the staff of that institution. He serves as an adjunct faculty member of both Georgian Court University and Ocean County College. Mr. LaGruth is a member of the Board of Directors of the Conductors Guild, a national service organization for conductors.

Maestro LaGruth will be celebrating his fifteenth year with the Garden State Philharmonic during the 2015-2016 season.