

Full Biography for Conductor Harold Rosenbaum
Website -- <http://www.haroldrosenbaum.com/>

Harold Rosenbaum is one of the most accomplished, versatile, and critically-acclaimed choral conductors of our time. He is the 2014 recipient of the Ditson Conductor's Award, established by Columbia University to honor conductors for their support of American music. Past winners include Leonard Bernstein, James Levine, Alan Gilbert, Eugene Ormandy, Robert Spano, and Robert Shaw. Mr. Rosenbaum was the 2010 recipient of ASCAP's Victor Herbert Award "in recognition of his contribution to the choral repertory and his service to American composers and their music," and the 2008 recipient of the American Composer Alliance's Laurel Leaf Award, previously given to such legends as the Juilliard String Quartet, Leopold Stokowski, and George Szell, in recognition of "distinguished achievement in fostering and encouraging the performance of new American works."

Mr. Rosenbaum is the founder and director of the Harold Rosenbaum Choral Conducting Institute which sponsors 3 and 5-day workshops at New York's Columbia University, the University at Buffalo, and Long Island's Adelphi University. He recently founded Virtuoso Choral Recordings (<http://www.virtuosochoralrecordings.com>), a cooperative venture to allow composers to have their choral works recorded at a reasonable cost.

Recently Mr. Rosenbaum created ChoralFest USA – A Celebration of the Diversity of Choral Music in America (<http://www.choralfestusa.org>). This free marathon concert, held at Symphony Space in NYC each June, features a dozen or more choirs performing centuries of American music in diverse styles.

A tireless advocate for contemporary composers, and for American composers in particular, Mr. Rosenbaum has created an ongoing choral composition competition, and has conducted over 500 world premieres (including works by Ravel (in Paris), Schoenberg, Dallapiccola, Schnittke, Carter, Henze, Berio, Perle, Harbison, Corigliano, Lang, Zwilich, Adamo, Ran, Musgrave, Bolcom, Danielpour, Thomas, Wyner, Tower, and Kernis. He has commissioned more than 70 works, and is committed to commissioning 10 each season.

He has recorded contemporary choral music on 40 commercial CDs for SONY Classical, Albany, CRI, Bridge, Koch International, Soundbrush, KASP, Capstone, MSR Classics, DRG, Nimbus Alliance, and Our Silent Canvas. Mr. Rosenbaum was Lead Choral Conductor for Parma Recordings and is a Soundbrush Records Artist. He is a conductor on the staff of Parma Recordings (www.parmarecordings.com). He is a four-time recipient of the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventuresome Programming of Contemporary Music, and a recipient of Chorus America's American Choral Works Performance Award. In recognition of his leadership in the interpretation and performance of contemporary music, G. Schirmer publishes the Harold Rosenbaum Choral Series, for which Mr. Rosenbaum composes, edits, and gives performance suggestions for conductors.

To fulfill his dream of conducting the most complex and masterful choral compositions of the 20th century, in 1988 Mr. Rosenbaum established [The New York Virtuoso Singers](#), a professional choir. Now in its 28th season, NYVS is regularly invited to perform with leading orchestras and at prestigious institutions such as The Tanglewood Music Festival, The Aspen Music Festival, and The Juilliard School. It has premiered over 400 works by renowned

contemporary composers such as Berio, Harbison, Henze, Andriessen, Ran, Perle, Krenek, Musgrave, Harvey, Pärt, and Imbrie.

In 1973 Mr. Rosenbaum established [The Canticum Novum Singers](#), one of New York's premiere volunteer choirs presenting music of all periods. In 42 years CNS has performed over 500 concerts nationally and internationally. Of the 750+ singers who have sung with CNS, over 100 have become professional choristers, soloists, conductors and composers. CNS has premiered over sixty compositions, including those by Handel, J.C. Bach, Fauré, Bruckner, Harbison, Berio, Schnittke, Rorem, Schickele, and Benjamin.

Mr. Rosenbaum is a much sought-after guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, funding panelist, coach, lecturer, consultant, and educator. He has taught at four universities, including The Juilliard School. Currently he is an associate professor at the University at Buffalo/State University of New York, where he directs the choirs, heads the graduate program in choral conducting, and teaches other courses.

Fulfilling his lifelong passion to bring together choral singers from different backgrounds and skill levels, over the past 42 years Mr. Rosenbaum has founded The Canticum Novum Festival Choir, Westchester Oratorio Society, Long Island Jewish Choral Society, and Westchester Jewish Choral Society in addition to NYVS and CNS. As conductor of eight university choirs, seven church choirs, ten synagogue choirs, two youth choirs, and a senior adult choir, Mr. Rosenbaum has conducted close to 1,700 concerts with these choirs individually and in combination. Such collaborations include the Verdi Requiem at Carnegie Hall with seven choirs, and Haydn's Creation with the Queens College Preparatory Choir, Transfiguration Lutheran Church Choir of Harlem, and Westchester Jewish Choral Society. For that concert Mr. Rosenbaum was awarded The Most Remarkable Ecumenical Achievement Award by The New York Times.

Mr. Rosenbaum's productivity is prodigious. During one season he was artistic director of eleven choirs. During another, he was a full-time professor at both the University at Buffalo and Queens College while conducting five non-university choirs. To celebrate The Canticum Novum Singers' 25th season, Mr. Rosenbaum conducted twenty five Bach cantatas, eleven in one day. During one 3-1/2 week period, he conducted the Verdi Requiem at Carnegie Hall, a three-hour world premiere at Avery Fisher Hall, Bach's St. John Passion, and a concert of modern music with The New York Virtuoso Singers. At the Tanglewood Music Center, he conducted seven modern works in the afternoon and three more that evening in the "Prelude" concert for the Boston Symphony. Mr. Rosenbaum typically works on 15-20 current and future projects at once. One past project from 1999 stands out for its broad scope and ambition: a co-production with Merkin Concert Hall, with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, of "Voices of the Century," a series of six concerts presenting 50 of the greatest a cappella pieces of the 20th century from 13 countries.

Mr. Rosenbaum has collaborated with hundreds of composers, including David Del Tredici, Stephen Schwartz, John Harbison, George Perle, William Schuman, Milton Babbitt, John Corigliano, John Adams, Mark Adamo, Osvaldo Golijov, Ned Rorem, Charles Wuorinen, Peter Schickele, Augusta Read Thomas, David Lang, Michael Gordon, Julia Wolfe, David Felder, George Tsontakis, Shulamit Ran, Andrew Imbrie, Tan Dunn, Earl Brown, and Tristan Keuris. He has worked with the venerable actors, including Tony Randall, F. Murray Abraham, Werner Klemperer and Michael York, celebrated stage directors Jonathan Miller and François Girard,

and legendary film composer Ennio Morricone in concerts with The Roma Sinfonietta in the General Assembly of the United Nations and at Radio City. Throughout Europe, Canada and Central America Mr. Rosenbaum has conducted over 100 concerts, working with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, L'Orchestre d'Europe, the New Prague Collegium, Dohnanyi Budafok Orchestra, the Madeira Bach Festival Orchestra, and choirs from the USA and France. International festival appearances include The Ludlow Festival and the Cheltenham Fringe Festival in England, The Madeira Bach Festival in Portugal, and The Siracusa Festival in Italy.

In this country Mr. Rosenbaum has collaborated over 100 times with leading orchestras and conductors such as The New York Philharmonic with James Conlon, The Brooklyn Philharmonic (59 times) with Robert Spano, Lukas Foss, Dennis Russell Davies, Michael Christie, and Grant Llewellyn, The American Symphony Orchestra with Leon Botstein, The American Composers Orchestra with Steven Sloane, The Riverside Symphony with George Rothman, The Orchestra of St. Luke's with Sir Charles Mackerras and Robert Spano, plus The Juilliard Orchestra, Concerto Köln, The Bard Festival Orchestra, and The Westchester Symphony Orchestra. Besides orchestras, Mr. Rosenbaum has collaborated with The Paul Taylor Dance Company, Continuum, P.D.Q. Bach (in Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall), The Mark Morris Dance Group, Bang on a Can, The Glyndebourne Opera Company, S.E.M. Ensemble, Da Capo Chamber Players, The New York Youth Symphony, Opera Dolce, and The Bel Canto Opera Company.

Mr. Rosenbaum's choirs have performed many times on Lincoln Center's Great Performers Series, and in concerts with James Galway, Tony Bennett, Licia Albanese, Marianne Faithful, Leonard Slatkin, and The Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society. He has appeared countless times on radio and TV, including an appearance on The David Letterman Show on Millennium New Year's Eve, and a national broadcast of an episode of CBS TV's 48 Hours replayed for years during the Christmas season entitled The Mystery of the Nativity.

Mr. Rosenbaum's affiliations are not easily classified, except to say that many are world-class performers performing worldwide. Until recently Mr. Rosenbaum was Artistic Director of [The Society for Universal Sacred Music](#), an organization which fostered the development and performance of universal sacred music through workshops, concerts and festivals. In June of 2012 the Society's resident choir, The New York Virtuoso Singers, toured Denmark and Sweden. In the summer of 2010 Mr. Rosenbaum conducted Mozart's Requiem in Israel in a festival sponsored by the Varna Music Academy. At The Juilliard School of Music in the fall of 2010, Mr. Rosenbaum conducted choral music of William Schuman, founder of that school, with The New York Virtuoso Singers. In 2012 he conducted the Verdi Requiem in Italy.

In the spring of 2013 Mr. Rosenbaum returned to Juilliard to conduct a vocal ensemble at the memorial concert for Elliott Carter. In the summer of 2014 he trained American singers to join others from around the world in a performance of Haydn's Creation in Haydn's church, St. Stephen's, in Vienna.

Currently Mr. Rosenbaum is completing two books, one a conducting textbook and the other his autobiography. He is also working on creating an annual music festival in Costa Rica, and is editing works by Ravel for publication.

In 2011 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Queens College, his alma mater. Mr. Rosenbaum is organist and choir director at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Katonah, NY. He resides in Westchester County with his wife, Edie. They have two daughters and three grandsons.

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Press Quotes for Conductor Harold Rosenbaum

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The New York Times

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Allan Kozinn, The New York Times

"Mr. Rosenbaum's sixteen singers are virtuosi indeed, masters in a contemporary repertory that, but for them, we would seldom hear. Ravel's Trois Chansons were poised and polished."

Andrew Porter, The New Yorker

"Late Saturday afternoon the amazing chamber choir the New York Virtuoso Singers, under the direction of Harold Rosenbaum, sang choral music by Gyorgy Ligeti, Krzysztof Penderecki, and four Americans....Ligeti's "Lux aeterna" (1966) is a 20th century classic, and it was sung with luminous rapture."

Richard Dyer, The Boston Globe

"It takes a large measure of self-confidence for a performing group to assert its virtuosity in its name. But the New York Virtuoso Singers practice truth in advertising. The singers in this 16 voice-chamber chorus, now in its 12th season under their founding conductor, Harold Rosenbaum, really are virtuosos. They would have to be, since they specialize in challenging contemporary music...Perhaps an a cappella concert of contemporary music looks on paper like a rigorously intellectual evening. But these 16 singers in an intimate recital hall provided more sheer excitement and beauty of sound than you will experience many an evening at the symphony."

Anthony Tommasini, The New York Times

"The Canticum Novum Singers and the New York Virtuoso Singers sang two unaccompanied Schoenberg choral works, perhaps more heroically than anyone had heard them sung before."

Greg Sandow, The Wall Street Journal

"Mr. Rosenbaum is not just an expert music director but a bracing programmer."

New York Times

"The New York Virtuoso Singers lived up to its name. Appearing in the (Tanglewood) festival's Fromm Foundation concert, it sang six composers' music with virtuosic agility. Intonation, blend, diction, solo work: All were impeccable".

Andrew L. Pincus, The Berkshire Eagle

"The Canticum Novum Festival Singers showed the benefit of Harold Rosenbaum's training here (Bruckner's Psalm 146) and in two sentimental bits of Bruckneriana for male chorus, "Germanenzug" and Abendzauber".

James R. Oestreich, The New York Times

"The opening concert of the American Symphony Orchestra season at Avery Fisher Hall celebrated the origins of impressionism in music with excerpts from Offenbach's "La Vie Parisienne" and the rarely performed one-act opera by Bizet, Djamileh"...Harold Rosenbaum's Canticum Novum Festival singers did very well by the choruses. Sunday's concert attracted a large and enthusiastic audience."

Raoul Abdul, New York Amsterdam News

"In that domain of the performance of contemporary music which has been most neglected and least supported in this country, there is no choral group which has been more able and willing to perform responsibly the most demanding and knowing of contemporary works than The New York Virtuoso Singers, under the guidance of a sophisticated and understanding conductor. Not only do they deserve and require support, but the fate of contemporary choral music is largely contingent on such support."

Milton Babbitt

Press Questions for Conductor Harold Rosenbaum

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The following questions are intended for print and broadcast journalists in connection with interviews with Harold Rosenbaum. These topics are designed to facilitate conversation with him and will make for a fascinating interview:

1. Tell me about your selection process for choral works to perform. Do you like to start from the text, or do you start with the musical ideas?
2. Who are your favorite composers to conduct? Are there any great composers that you don't like to conduct and why?
3. Are there any works by composers that aren't known as choral writers that if works by them were discovered would be a sort of dream project for you?
4. Tell me about some of your collaborations with the many fine artists and organizations you've worked with over the years.
5. What are the differences in working with your New York Virtuoso Singers and your Canticum Novum singers?
6. Tell me about your work with the Society for Universal Sacred Music. What are you currently working on for them?
7. What are some of your favorite places to present concerts, from an acoustical point of view?
8. Do you like the CD recording process?

9. How are you responding to the changing face of classical music in the 21st century?

10. What does the future hold for Harold Rosenbaum?

All press inquiries should be directed to Jeffrey James Arts Consulting at 516-586-3433 or jamesarts@att.net.