

Nyela Basney

Conductor

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Equally at home in both the symphonic and operatic repertoires, Nyela Basney is known for her “fiery intensity” (Chicago Sun-Times) and “brilliance and dexterity.” “The music [was] wonderfully played by the symphony under . . . Nyela Basney [who] remained the star of the evening . . .” (Shreveport Times)

Excellence, authenticity, joy, and creative engagement with musicians and audiences alike are the hallmarks of Nyela Basney’s two-decade career – one that encompasses over 1,200 performances as a conductor and pianist and that has taken her to Lincoln Center, rural Louisiana, Chicago, Sarajevo, Rome, Scotland, and Uruguay.

Miss Basney has led Masterworks, Pops and educational concerts with the American Symphony Orchestra (in Avery Fisher and Alice Tully Halls), the Sarajevo Philharmonic, the Virginia Symphony, the Toledo Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic, the Springfield (MA) Symphony, the Shreveport Symphony, the Massapequa Philharmonic and the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale. She has collaborated with Renée Fleming, Peter Schickele, cellist Elizabeth Anderson, pianist Jeffrey Biegel, and violinist Zina Schiff and recently led the European premiere of Jacob Banck’s “Lumen” with Daniel Paul Horn as pianist.

She has also conducted theatrical productions with Chicago’s Music Theatre Works (The Merry Widow with Stacey Tappan), El Paso Opera, Chamber Opera Chicago (at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe), Operafestival di Roma, Voices of Change in Dallas, Little Orchestra Society of New York, and Opera Tascabile. She conducted Dominick Argento’s “Masque of Angels” at Perkins Chapel in Dallas on the occasion of Mr. Argento’s 70th birthday. Miss Basney was Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master for 14 productions with the New York Grand Opera.

She served as cover conductor for Andrew Litton and the Dallas Symphony in Carnegie Hall, for John Nelson with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center and at the Aspen Music Festival and for Raymond Harvey at El Paso Opera. She taught a 5-week Master Class at the National School of Opera in Montevideo, traveling as a cultural specialist with the United States Information Agency.

Miss Basney is the Artistic Director of Opera at North Park University and founder and director (for 25 years) of the international chamber music festival Orvieto Musica, Inc. She has received critical acclaim for her orchestral arrangements, performed by Lyric Stage (Texas) and Chamber Opera Chicago. Miss Basney recently gave recitals in Colorado and Illinois with noted Italian violinist Alessandro Cervo and has served as a staff pianist at the Juilliard School Evening Division.

She attended the Eastman School of Music on a coveted Alumni Scholarship, receiving her undergraduate and graduate degrees with highest distinction.