

Matthew Szymanski, Conductor

Born of humble beginnings in the small village of Washington DC, Matthew Szymanski recently graduated from New England Conservatory with a Masters in Orchestral Conducting following two years of studies with Hugh Wolff. A passionate advocate for music education, Mr. Szymanski currently serves as the Assistant Conductor for the New England Conservatory Youth Symphony and assists regularly with the New England Conservatory Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. From 2011 to 2013 he served as a conducting apprentice to Harry Christophers' with the Handel and Haydn Society. This summer Mr. Szymanski is excited to be touring Central America with Maestro Youth Orchestra of the Americas, giving him a chance to brush up on his Spanish skills, long lost in a sea of Italian, French, and German musical terminology.

As part of his studies at New England Conservatory Szymanski has led recent performances of Bartok *Divertimento for Strings*, Beethoven Symphonies 3 and 7 and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella*. In April he joined the New England Conservatory Symphony for a concert featuring Copland's *Four Dance Episodes from Rodeo*, affording him ample opportunity to show off his highly regarded cowboy impressions. In May he lead the world premier of Katherine Balch's Opera *The Loveliest Afternoon of the Year*, sponsored by a grant from New England Conservatory. In 2013 Mr. Szymanski was honored to be named a finalist for the prestigious New World Orchestra Conducting Fellowship with Michael Tilson Thomas.

A proud member of Generation Y, Mr. Szymanski is a firm supporter of the evolving role of technology in our lives and our concert halls. It is worth noting that, though proud of his membership, Szymanski really wishes his Generation would define itself as something better than just, "The generation that comes after X," but maybe that's better left for another day. He feels that the time has come for orchestras to join the countless organizations that have adapted their practices to fit a rapidly changing world and believes that this change is possible without compromising the artistic integrity our music deserves. He believes it is possible for a person to compress some of their thoughts into an 140 character space and love a Beethoven Symphony at the same time.

In his spare time Mr. Szymanski enjoys watching sports and is an avid follower of the Atlanta Braves, Notre Dame Football, Boston University Hockey, the US Men's National Soccer Team, the Washington Redskins, the Washington Capitals, the Washington Wizards, and both Northwestern University Football and Basketball. With two feet squarely in the music world and one foot in sports Szymanski uses his fourth foot to test the waters of political life. An active participant in the political world, he has held positions on two campaigns and given time to countless others spending time advocating for candidates from both parties in the United States. Ever the quintaped, Mr. Szymanski always keeps a fifth foot firmly planted in his childhood hobby of video games. Besides being accepted to the highly selective conducting program at New England Conservatory one of the proudest moments of his life was standing atop the world after finishing 1st in a 200 person MarioKart 64 tournament at Boston University. Yes, he finds time for all of these things.