

The Conductor Brings to the Rehearsal:

- the achievement of a high artistic level as a performer on a solo instrument or voice.
- infectious joy and enthusiasm for music and the desire to perform at the highest possible level...a kind of leadership that will produce a magnificent musical product through great love, integrity and the relentless pursuit of excellence.
- a collection of selected works to be performed that have emerged out of a long list of possible works that could be performed. These works are accessible to both the listener and the performer and have been carefully chosen to inspire, educate and entertain.
- a sound concept for each work to be performed, a complete command and knowledge of each score. This sound concept evolves out of hours of score study and an insatiable desire to discover the intent and message of the composer. Through this process, the conductor becomes a conduit -- an unobstructed channel through which the music flows. Each work becomes so much a part of the conductor that it no longer exclusive to the composer. It is now the conductor's music and he/she is ready to pass ownership on to the performer and listener. All those involved lose themselves to the great power and energy of the music.
- a knowledge of music history, performance practice, style and the resource materials necessary to supplement that knowledge...a personal acquaintance with each composer through research of the lives of past composers and frequent contact and collaboration with current composers.
- stick technique and conducting gestures that have clear and precise meanings thus causing the conductor at all times to look like the music and portray its meaning and essence to the performer and listener.
- familiarity with musical forms and compositional techniques including harmony, melody, rhythm, orchestration and instrumentation...an understanding of the composer's thought process.
- aural skills, which include the ability to sing and identify all intervals, melodic lines, chords and arpeggios, and rhythms...the ability to detect errors in rehearsal and quickly develop strategies to correct and mitigate unmusical events.
- knowledge of all transpositions, clefs and music terminology plus a working knowledge of all woodwind, brass, percussion and string instruments, their performance problems and the physics involved in their construction.