

CHOIR CONDUCTOR: ANDRE' J. THOMAS

André J. Thomas
Florida State University College of Music
Tallahassee, FL 32306



ANDRÉ J. THOMAS, the Owen F. Sellers Professor of Music, is Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Choral Music Education at Florida State University. A previous faculty member at the University of Texas, Austin, Dr. Thomas received his degrees from Friends University (B.A.), Northwestern University (M. M.), and the University of Illinois (D.M.A). He is in demand as a choral adjudicator, clinician, and director of Honor/All-State Choirs throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, and Australia.

Dr. Thomas has conducted choirs at the state, division, and national conventions of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). His international conducting credits are extensive. They include conductor/clinician for the International Federation of Choral Musicians, summer residency of the World Youth Choir in the Republic of China and the Philippines, winter residency of the World Youth Choir in Europe, and a premier performance by an American choir (Florida State University Singers) in Vietnam. He has been the guest conductor of such distinguished orchestras and choirs as the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in England, and guest Conductor for the Berlin Radio Choir in Germany.

Thomas has also distinguished himself as a composer/arranger. Hinshaw Music Company, Mark Foster Music Company, Fitzsimmon Music Company, Lawson Gould, Earthsongs, and Heritage Music Company publish his compositions and arrangements. Dr. Thomas has produced two instructional videos "What They See Is What You Get" on choral conducting, with Rodney Eichenberger, and "Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice" on adolescent voices, with Anton Armstrong. He is a past president of the Florida ACDA, and the past president of the Southern Division of ACDA.

CONCERT BAND CONDUCTOR: ANTHONY J. MAIELLO

Anthony J. Maiello
Professor of Music
Director of Instrumental Studies
George Mason University



Anthony J. Maiello received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Ithaca College in 1965 and 1967, respectively. He also studied at the National Conducting Institute in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Mr. Leonard Slatkin, Musical Director of the National Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Maiello's many professional credits include clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor of All-State, All-State Sectional, Regional, District, All-County and All-City ensembles, with appearances throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, England, Europe, The Netherlands and The Bahamas. He conducted musical activities for the Gold Medal Ceremonies at the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, New York, the New York State Music Camp & Institute; has served as New York State Music Association adjudicator; clinician with Yamaha, and clinician for Warner Bros. Publications, President of the International Association of Jazz Educators - New York State Chapter and as Musical Director for Music Festivals International. He is an elected member of The American Bandmasters Association and ASCAP, and holds membership in the National Band Association, College Band Directors National Association, New York State School Music Association, Virginia Music Educators Association, Virginia Jazz Service Organization, The College Music Society and The American Symphony Orchestra League.

Mr. Maiello's academic experience includes extensive teaching in the public schools. He served as Professor of Music and Chairman of Performance at the Crane School of Music, Potsdam College of SUNY, Potsdam, New York, where his duties included advanced instrumental conducting, applied clarinet, woodwind and percussion techniques; and conductor of the Crane Wind Ensemble. Under his direction, the ensembles at Crane and George Mason University have commissioned many new works, made numerous recordings and appearances statewide and at regional and national conferences in the United States and Canada. He is the author of *CONDUCTING: A HANDS-ON-APPROACH* and co-author of the *21st CENTURY BAND METHOD*.

Anthony Maiello travels widely presenting clinics, lectures and workshops, and guest conducting and adjudicating numerous music festivals. He is presently Professor of Music and Director of Instrumental Studies at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia where he conducts the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble and teaches several conducting courses. Mr. Maiello has also served as Associate Conductor of The McLean Orchestra, McLean, Virginia and has been appointed an Honorary Conductor of The United States Navy Band, Washington, D.C.

ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR: DENNIS M. LAYENDECKER

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker
George Mason University
Director of Orchestral Studies



Colonel Layendecker is a graduate of the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Music Education in 1975. He began his conducting studies in 1977 while on full piano scholarship at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels, Belgium. He subsequently augmented his conducting studies during summer master classes at the Academia Musicale Chigiana in Sienna, Italy, and at the Vienna Academy of Music. In 1981, he earned a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and in 1988, he completed a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting at the Catholic

University of America in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the Air Force, Colonel Layendecker served on the music faculties of The American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, Illinois and Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. He is currently a member of the American Bandmasters Association.

During his 24-year Air Force career, Colonel Layendecker has performed throughout America, the United Kingdom and Europe--from Los Angeles to New York, Vienna to London and Oslo to Bucharest. Gifted in foreign languages, he is fluent in French, German and Italian. He has performed in such notable venues as the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles; Semper Opera, Dresden; Neues Gewandhaus Leipzig; Royal Albert Hall in London; and the Beethovenhalle in Bonn. He has led his ensembles before numerous world leaders to include six American presidents, Queen Elizabeth of England, and Pope John-Paul II.

His radio and television broadcast credits include appearances on BBC, German Radio and Television, Polish National Radio, Radio Luxembourg, RAI Italy, and public radio and national television across America.

Colonel Layendecker is a graduate of the Air War College, a distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, and a graduate of the Air Force Academic Instructor's School and Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. His military decorations include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

JAZZ BAND CONDUCTOR: MARIA SCHNEIDER

Maria Schneider



Born in Windom, Minnesota, Maria Schneider arrived in New York City in 1985 after studies at the University of Minnesota, the University of Miami, and the Eastman School of Music. She immediately sought out Bob Brookmeyer to study composition. At the same time she became an assistant to Gil Evans, working on various projects with him, but most notably, the film *The Color of Money* and music for the Gil Evans/Sting tour in 1987. In recent years she's been invited to conduct Evans' music extensively, featuring such musicians as Jon Faddis, Wallace Roney, Miles Evans, Ingrid Jensen, and David Sanborn.

The Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra came into being in 1993, appearing at *Visiones* in Greenwich Village every Monday night for a stretch of five years. Subsequently, her orchestra received invitations to perform at jazz festivals and concert halls across Europe as well as in Brazil and Macau. She's received numerous commissions and invitations for guest conducting her music in America, Italy, Portugal, France, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Slovenia, Austria, Canada, Scotland, Australia, Greenland, and Iceland. Commissions include the Norrbotten Big Band's and Danish Radio Orchestra's commission to arrange and conduct concerts with Toots Thielemans. Other commissioning organizations include the Metropole Orchestra, Stuttgart Jazz Orchestra, Orchestre National de Jazz (*Recapitulation*), Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra (*El Viento*), Monterey Jazz Festival (*Scenes from Childhood*), University of Miami Concert Jazz Band (*Three Romances*), Hunter College (*Concert in the Garden* and *Sky Blue*), Jazz at Lincoln Center (*Bulería*, *Soleá y Rumba*), Los Angeles Philharmonic Association (*Aires de Lando*) and Peter Sellars' New Crowned Hope Festival (*Cerulean Skies*). Maria was also the recipient of a Doris Duke award to compose a dance work (*Dissolution*) in collaboration with the Pilobolus dance group, performed with her orchestra at the American Dance Festival and Kennedy Center. She arranged a concert of Ivan Lins' music for Ivan Lins, Toots Thielemans and the Danish Radio Orchestra for an extensive European tour in 2003.

Concert in the Garden, released only through her website (an ArtistShare site), won a 2005 Grammy Award and became the first Grammy winning recording with internet-only sales. It received the Jazz Album of the Year award by the Jazz Journalists Awards and the DOWNBEAT Critics Poll. Both also awarded Maria Composer of the Year and Arranger of the Year, and the Jazz Journalists also named her group Large Jazz Ensemble of the Year.

Maria's debut recording *Evanescence* was nominated for two 1995 Grammy Awards: Best Large Jazz Ensemble Recording and Best Instrumental Composition (for its title

piece). Her second and third recordings, *Coming About* and *Allégresse*, as well as two compositions from *Concert in the Garden* were nominated for Grammy Awards. Her third album, *Allégresse*, was chosen by both *TIME* and *BILLBOARD* in their Top Ten Recordings of 2000, which was inclusive of all genres of music. Her newest recording, *Sky Blue*, is scheduled for release from her ArtistShare website, mariaschneider.com, on June 14th, 2007.