

January, 2021

Dear CT Northern Region Musician,

Thank you for your hard work and dedication in preparing an audition for the CMEA Northern Region Orchestra! Your commitment to your art shines even stronger as you persevere during this pandemic. Although we can't hold a traditional festival this year, there will be the opportunity to participate in a virtual workshop with André Raphael, Music Director of the UCONN Symphony Orchestra, on Friday, January 15, at 3:30pm.



The Art of Listening and Playing in the Orchestra- This workshop will focus on how to play in the orchestra and become an active listener. What to listen for as students play orchestral works will be an integral part of this session. Also covered during this session will be information on how to prepare for orchestral rehearsals and forming a distinctive sound as an ensemble.

A dynamic and versatile conductor hailed for his profound musical performances, André Raphael is renowned for his technical brilliance. Raphael has led critically acclaimed festivals, world premieres and commissioned works by Richard Danielpour, Jennifer Higdon, Kenneth Fuchs, Hannibal Lokumbe and Uri Caine.

Conductor Laureate of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, André Raphael led the orchestra as Music Director for 15 years. Other key positions have included Assistant Conductor to Kurt Masur at the New York Philharmonic for two years and Assistant Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra for six years. Additionally, Raphael served for three years as Assistant Conductor of the Saint Louis Symphony.

Raphael has appeared with most of the major American orchestras including Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra and New York Philharmonic. Among other numerous orchestras, he has appeared with the symphony orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Detroit, Houston, Milwaukee, Oregon, Pittsburgh, Saint Louis Seattle, the National Symphony and Minnesota Orchestra among others. Raphael has led Germany's Bamberg Symphony in two recordings for Bavarian Broadcasting. A new recording of Uri Caine's Passion of Octavius Catto with Raphael conducting has garnered critical acclaim.

Raphael has a strong commitment to community engagement. During his tenure with the Saint Louis Symphony he served as Music Director of the orchestra's In Unison program, a partnership between the orchestra and local churches.

Born André Raphael Smith in Durham, North Carolina, he received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Miami. He pursued further study at Yale University where he earned his Master's Degree. He studied conducting at The Curtis Institute of Music earning a Diploma in conducting, and at The Juilliard School where he received an Advanced Certificate in orchestral conducting.

Raphael is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. Among them, The North Carolina Senate awarded Raphael the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine." The award presented annually, is the state's highest honor for a civilian.

WORKSHOP DRESS: Please be sure to dress professionally for this virtual workshop. "Business casual" is recommended. Do follow your school's dress code.

LINK: The workshop link will be sent to your director by Thursday, January 14th.

If you have any questions, please email in advance of the workshop
Best,

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