



FRANCIS LÉGER, conductor
2019-20 Biography

“Extraordinary.”, “Different leader. Different sound.”, “Simply further evidence of an unusual talent.”, “Charismatic maestro.”, and from the Austin American-Statesman, “This is the best sound I’ve heard . . . not only painting Mussorgsky’s florid musical images, but building triumphantly to the finale.”

Conductor Francis Léger is recognized as a gifted interpretive artist. He has a track record of transforming and building orchestras, and of exciting American and international audiences with profoundly moving performances.

Léger has built upon an enormous range of experience. In Prague, he served as Principal Conductor then Principal Guest Conductor of the Czech Chamber Philharmonic between 2005 and 2016. In China, he served as Music Advisor to the Kong Xiang-Dong Music Organization between 2005 and 2011. He first garnered international attention in 1994, and was one of the first Americans to guest conduct the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra. In Italy, he served as Music Director of the Rome Philharmonic Orchestra from 2001 to 2003.

Léger’s trademark is a most unusual combination of meticulous technical preparation, sincere and passionate musicality, and what might be called a mature, level headed, yet dynamic charisma. This along with his refreshing lack of inclination for aggressive self-sell, is an *“outward and honest expression of true openness, generosity and professional stability of personality.”* His managerial capability does as much as his podium persona to win the trust of orchestras and singers, and inspire them to throw themselves into passionate professional performance. His thorough and disciplined preparatory work can be an exciting technical and cultural encounter for orchestra and audience alike.

In the United States, Léger has worked with symphony orchestras and chamber orchestras in the Northeast and Southwest. He served a five-year tenure at the Opera Company of Boston, and conducted ballet and theatre including productions by the New Players Theatre Guild (MA) and Ithaca College Theater (NY). He has held conducting positions with other opera companies including American National Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Opera New England, and Hartt Opera Theater (CT). Early in his

career, he was Music Director of the Willimantic Orchestra in Connecticut, Peddocks Island Arts Festival in Massachusetts, and made his opera debut conducting Gaetano Donizetti's "*Daughter Of The Regiment*" at the historic Central City Opera Festival in Colorado.

Léger has conducted conservatory and university orchestras, internationally and in the United States as music director and guest conductor, and served at The Boston Conservatory, Eastern Connecticut State University, A & M University, Central Texas, and The University of Minnesota, Duluth. As the music faculty and first Artist-in-Residence and Conductor at A & M, Central Texas, he also established their new music program and orchestra festival, founded the innovative Music Performance and Research Lab, served as head of music research, and performed concerts. At UMD, he led the orchestral program and conducted the Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Orchestra Festival.

Léger's work has taken him to major cities including Hong Kong, Beijing, Frankfurt, Barcelona, Paris, London, and he has been a Visiting Artist and Scholar at the American Academy in Rome. As Special Guest Conductor and Composer at the International Shanghai Television Festival, he served as Music Director for classical programming and conducted nationally televised concerts.

In New York, Léger received a Bachelor of Music degree from Ithaca College School of Music and graduated with Phi Kappa Phi honors. He was awarded the graduate assistantship in conducting and earned a Master of Music degree from The Boston Conservatory. A native of Massachusetts, he studied and trained at other leading institutions, programs and institutes in the United States and Europe.

After hearing Léger conduct the Arena Orchestra of Verona, Franco Ferrara stated, "*Rarely have I heard such emotion.*" Mr. Léger accepted a personal invitation, and was one of the last to study with the legendary conductor.

Francis Léger is represented by Arts Management Associates.

Further information is available at www.FrancisLeger.com

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