

Antoine Plante

Conductor, Artistic Director, Creator and Founder of Mercury Chamber Orchestra and Mercury Singers



Praised for his conducting vigor and innovative programming, Antoine Plante has captivated audiences and musicians alike with his ability to bring music to life. Charles Ward of the *Houston Chronicle* lauded him for leading "an impressive account of the Mozart's Requiem: authoritative, vigorous, emotionally intense, at times utterly gripping."

As the founder of Mercury Chamber Orchestra in Houston, Texas, Plante has played a pivotal role in the orchestra's remarkable growth over its 24-year history. Known for his skillful programming of great classical works like Mozart's 41st Symphony and Mendelssohn's Reformation alongside lesser-known gems, he has helped Mercury gain a rapidly growing audience. In 2022, he further extended Mercury's artistic reach by founding the Mercury Singers, the orchestra's vocal ensemble.

A versatile conductor, Plante excels across a wide repertoire. Equally at home with romantic and modern composers, he also specializes in performing classical and baroque works with period instruments. His expertise extends to staged productions, having conducted numerous operas and ballets. In collaboration with French director Pascal Rambert, Plante produced a modern, critically acclaimed staging of Lully's *Armide* in Paris and Houston. He also worked with Dominic Walsh Dance Theater to create the score for Walsh's ballet *Romeo and Juliet*. His innovative spirit shone in the multimedia creation of *Loving Clara Schumann*, a fully staged work featuring orchestra, dancers, and vocal soloists in a compelling dramatic performance.

Plante is a passionate advocate for classical music education. He leads Mercury's educational outreach program, which brings classroom music education to underserved schools, offers master classes for student orchestras, and provides live performances for schoolchildren.

Under Plante's leadership, Mercury has grown into a vital cultural institution in Houston, presenting over 40 concerts per season in a variety of venues, making music accessible to the entire community.

Plante has served as guest conductor for esteemed ensembles, including the San Antonio Symphony, Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra, Chanticleer, Houston Grand Opera, Ecuador National Symphony Orchestra, and Atlanta Baroque.

Antoine Plante grew up in Montréal, Québec, Canada and lives in Houston, Texas.