

Meet Michael Butterman!



Michael Butterman has held the position of Music Director at the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra since the 2006-2007 season. He conducts all of the concerts during the orchestra's season including subscription concerts, family concerts and programs for young people. In addition, he visits music classes throughout Boulder and represents the organization in the community. Mr. Butterman is also the principal Conductor for Education and Outreach for the Rochester (NY) Philharmonic Orchestra and the Music Director of the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra in Louisiana.

Mr. Butterman began studying music at the age of seven. He took piano lessons beginning in the second grade, and added violin the next year. He enjoyed music so much that he became a violinist in the Northern Virginia Youth Symphony, and practiced piano for hours each day. He eventually entered and won several piano competitions when he was in high school.

Although he loved music, he decided to concentrate on studies in chemistry when he was in college. He remained involved in music by playing piano for his school's choruses. One year, he was asked to conduct the choruses, and discovered how much he enjoyed working with other musicians to prepare concert programs. Mr. Butterman then decided to get some specialized training in conducting, and enrolled at Indiana University.

He was offered a teaching position at Louisiana State University and lived in Baton Rouge for five years. Today, he lives in Louisiana with his wife, Jennifer (who plays violin) and daughter, Olivia.

Learn to Conduct!

A conductor has many different responsibilities. S/he plans the music that the audience will hear, learns the different parts that each musician plays and decides how to interpret what the composer has written. The conductor uses each of her/his hands differently. With the right hand s/he keeps the beat with a specific pattern (see below), with the left hand, s/he communicates the expressive qualities of the music.

Practice these conducting patterns with music!

