



Erik Ochsner, *conductor*

900 West 190th Street, #12N
New York, NY 10040

www.erikochsner.com

www.youngstownsymphony.com

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[YouTube](#)

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Finnish-American conductor Erik Ochsner's versatility as a conductor has stretched across a broad range of repertoire: from conducting as few as five performers in contemporary and modern works, to leading 300 performers across 20+ full length films using the Live in Concert format. Audiences and critics alike praise Ochsner's energy, attention to detail and precise synchronization.

Ochsner was recently named the ninth Music Director of the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra ("YSO"), where he has already conducted nine concerts as a Guest Conductor. Two highlights with the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra were: Mahler Symphony No. 1, Strauss' Overture to *Die Fledermaus*, Mozart Piano Concerto No. 23, plus a specially curated concert including 7 works called *Unknown and Gorgeous: River and Iron*, which featured the US premieres of Uuno Klami's *Kalevala Suite*, and Eugene Kapp's *Kalevipoeg Ballet Suite* (1947), plus Respighi's *Pines of Rome*.

Most recently, Ochsner conducted three performances of *Lion King (1994) Live in Concert*, and three performances of *Frozen Live in Concert* with the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Upcoming performances include *Star Wars in Concert Episode 6: Return of the Jedi* and *Nightmare Before Christmas* in Edmonton, Canada, *Lion King in Concert* in Oman, plus four concerts (two classical and two pops) with the Youngstown Symphony.

Working with his friend Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Ochsner commissioned Tom Chapin and John Forster to create a new piece for three actors and chamber orchestra: *Grandfather Camp: An Orchestral Fantasy*. The story is based on Dr. Ruth's writings about grandparenting. A successful development workshop took place, and the piece is currently being orchestrated for future performance!

Ochsner's long relationship with the Krakow International Film Music Festival have been hugely successful leading sold-out performances in a 16,000-seat arena of *Pixar in Concert*, *Frozen*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Lion King (1994)* (all performed in Polish), plus *Disney in Concert: The Magic of Music* with the Krakow Film Festival Youth Orchestra.

As Principal Touring Conductor for *La La Land Live in Concert*, Ochsner conducted 50 performances across the globe of Justin Hurwitz's Academy Award and Grammy Award winning score, often performing with two of the original recording artists, pianist Randy Kerber, and trumpeter Wayne Bergeron.

Ochsner conducted the world premiere of *Mary Poppins* (1964) with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House; made his debut with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra conducting *Love Actually*; on 40 hours' notice, he flew to Taipei to conduct *Beauty and the Beast in Concert* to fill for an ailing colleague; at the Nanjing Forest Music Festival in China, he conducted a concert of 18 suites of Hollywood film music; Music Director of the 2017 Opera America New Works Showcase in New York City. In collaboration with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Ochsner led the premiere of *The Music of Star Wars* featuring the iconic music of John Williams, as well as award-winning video game composers Gordy Haab and Kyle Newmaster.

Other Film projects he has conducted include: *Back to the Future*, *Beauty and the Beast (2017)*, *Batman* (1989), *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Frozen*, *Ghostbusters*, *Home Alone*, *La La Land*, *Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring*, *Love Actually*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Pixar in Concert*, *Star Trek (2009)*, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Star Wars in Concert: Episodes 4, 5 and 6*.

Equally comfortable on the concert stage or leading opera, oratorio and multi-media performances, he has performed in Adelaide, Athens, Beijing, Budapest, Calgary, Dallas, Detroit, Indianapolis, Jakarta, Kitchener-Waterloo, Krakow, Leipzig, Louisiana, Louisville, Melbourne, México City, Montreal, Monterrey, Moscow, Nashville, New York, Ottawa, Portland, Reykjavik, Richmond, Rochester, Round Top, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Seoul, Shanghai, Sofia, South Bend, St. Louis, St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Tampere, Tokyo, Vancouver, Wellington, Youngstown.

He is Founder and Music Director of SONOS Chamber Orchestra which performed Rite of Spring in an arrangement for 4 pianos and 2 percussionists. The *New York Times* said, "All the hallmarks of a great "Rite" were here."

During an 8-year collaboration, Ochsner served as Rehearsal Conductor for Academy Award winning composer Tan Dun (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*). Highlights include Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master for *The First Emperor* workshop, a Metropolitan Opera commission, and Cover Conductor with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere of *The Map*, a multimedia cello featuring Yo-Yo Ma, with performances in Boston, Carnegie Hall, and Tanglewood.

The *Bulgarian Monitor* said, "Sensuality and synchronicity, matched by perfection, accompanied each of the melodies during *La La Land: Live in Concert*." *Radio Canada* wrote, "[Ochsner] was of remarkable precision to the musical direction...the music of the orchestra seemed to emanate from the film. There was no distinction between the screen and the stage." The *Ontario Arts Review* has said "Watch this man, he is brilliant."

Recordings include *Brian Wilbur Grundstrom: An Orchestral Journey* (CD), and *Tea: A Mirror of Soul* (DVD).

Ochsner attended The Pierre Monteux School and is a graduate of Dartmouth College. He speaks French, German and Italian. His mentors and teachers included Robert Spano, Charles Bruck, Erich Kunzel, Marin Alsop and Helmuth Rilling. He lives in New York City, loves travelling, wine and collecting requiem recordings.

www.erikochsner.com and www.SONOSChamberOrch.org and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/user/erikochsner)

These materials were updated on October 8, 2025.

At the request of the artist, this may not be altered or edited.

Armenian State Symphony Orchestra (Performing in Dammam, Saudi Arabia)	<i>Lion King (1994):</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2025 <i>Frozen:</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2025
Beethoven Academy Orchestra (Krakow Film Music Festival)	<i>Lion King (1994):</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2024 Live chorus and vocal soloists (Performed in Polish) <i>World Premiere-Polish</i> <i>Beauty and the Beast:</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2018 Live chorus and vocal soloists (Performed in Polish) <i>World Premiere-Polish</i> <i>Frozen:</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2016 Live chorus and soloists (Performed in Polish) <i>World Premiere-Polish</i> <i>Pixar in Concert,</i> Guest Conductor, 2014
Youngstown Symphony Orchestra	<i>Symphonic Superheroes</i> (Giacchino, Williams, Elfman, Silvestri, Schubert, Toprak, Wagner, Saint-Saëns, Göransson, Kamen, Rossini), Guest Conductor, 2025 <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (Tchaikovsky, Gounod, Bellini, Delius, Bernstein, Puccini, Prokofiev), Guest Conductor, 2025 <i>Beethoven and Beyond:</i> Symphony No. 3; Cherubini: Overture to L'hôtellerie portugaise and Symphony in D, Guest Conductor, 2025 <i>Back to the Future</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2024 <i>The Vindys</i> (Rock band and symphony orchestra), Guest Conductor, 2024 <i>Unknown and Gorgeous: River and Iron</i> (Copland, Kapp, Mosolov, Klami, Boyer, Picker, Respighi), Guest Conductor, 2024 <i>Home Alone,</i> Guest Conductor, 2023 <i>Symphonic Titans</i> (Strauss, Mozart, Mahler), Guest Conductor, 2023 <i>Ghostbusters,</i> Guest Conductor, 2022
Louisville Orchestra	<i>Star Wars Episode 7: The Force Awakens,</i> Guest Conductor, 2024
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra	<i>Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope,</i> Guest Conductor, 2023 <i>Star Wars Episode 7: The Force Awakens,</i> Guest Conductor, 2023 <i>Star Wars Episode 6: Return of the Jedi,</i> Guest Conductor, 2022 <i>La La Land:</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2018
South Bend Symphony Orchestra	<i>Ghostbusters,</i> Guest Conductor, 2022 <i>Dia de los Muertos,</i> Guest Conductor, 2022
Alabama Symphony Orchestra	<i>Ghostbusters,</i> Guest Conductor, 2019
Oregon Symphony	<i>Batman (1989),</i> Guest Conductor, 2019 <i>Star Trek Into Darkness,</i> Guest Conductor, 2016 <i>Star Trek (2009),</i> Guest Conductor, 2015
Krakow FMF Youth Orchestra	<i>A Disney Celebration.</i> Music from 15 films, with vocal soloists (Performed in Polish), Guest Conductor, 2019
Evergreen Symphony (Taiwan)	<i>Pixar in Concert,</i> Guest Conductor, 2019 (with marching band!) <i>Star Wars Episode 5: The Empire Strikes Back,</i> Guest Conductor 2019 <i>La La Land:</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2017

Montreal Orchestre FILMharmonique	<i>Tim Burton's Nightmare Before Christmas</i> , Guest Conductor, 2024 <i>Star Wars Episode 6: Return of the Jedi</i> , Guest Conductor, 2023 <i>Star Wars Episode 5: The Empire Strikes Back</i> , Guest Conductor, 2022 <i>Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope</i> , Guest Conductor, 2019
San Francisco Symphony	<i>Love Actually: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018
Sydney Symphony Orchestra	<i>Mary Poppins: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018, <i>World Premiere</i>
Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra	<i>Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018
Saint Petersburg State Governor's Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018
Taipei Symphony Orchestra	<i>Beauty and the Beast: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018
Seattle Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018
San Antonio Symphony	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018
National Symphony Orchestra (Taipei)	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2018
W Philharmonic Orchestra (Seoul)	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017, 2018
St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Orchestre Métropolitain (Montreal)	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Nashville Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Monterrey (Mexico) Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
San Diego Symphony	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Dallas Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Athens Festival Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Calgary Symphony Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Tokyo Philharmonic	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Budapest Festival Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Stockholm Chamber Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Yogyakarta ASAL (Jakarta) Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Bulgarian Radio Symphony	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Philharmonia Australia Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2017
Hollywood Bowl Orchestra	<i>La La Land: Live in Concert</i> , Cover Conductor, 2017

Opera America	<i>2017 New Works Showcase</i> , Music Director
National Arts Centre (Ottawa)	<i>The Music of Star Wars</i> , Guest Conductor, 2016 (new production) <i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2012
St. Louis Symphony	<i>E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial</i> Live in Concert, 2016 <i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2012
Dranoff International 2 Piano	Artistic Director, 2014-2016
Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México	<i>Back to the Future</i> Live in Concert, Guest Conductor, 2015
Richmond Symphony Orchestra	<i>Bugs Bunny at the Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2015
Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony	<i>Star Trek (2009)</i> , Guest Conductor, 2015
Detroit Symphony Orchestra	<i>Bugs Bunny at the Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2014
Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra	<i>Pixar in Concert</i> , Guest Conductor, 2014 <i>Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl</i> , Guest Conductor, 2012
Wolf Trap Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2013
Round Top Music Festival Orchestra (Texas)	Faculty Concerto Concert, Guest Conductor, 2013 Assistant Conductor, 1996-1999. (Robert Spano, Marin Alsop, Christopher Hogwood)
Kaohsiung Symphony (Taiwan)	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2012
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2012
Adelaide Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2012
Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra	<i>Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl</i> , Guest Conductor, 2012
Iceland Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2012
Shanghai Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2012
Tampere Philharmonic (Finland)	<i>Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring</i> Live to Projection, Guest Conductor, 2011
Royal Stockholm Philharmonic	Composer Spotlight Festival: Tan Dun, Guest Conductor, 2007
Beijing Modern Music Festival	<i>Pierrot Lunaire</i> (Chinese premiere), Guest Conductor, 2007
New Mexico Symphony Orchestra	<i>Lord of the Rings Symphony</i> , Guest Conductor, 2006

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West Saxony Sinfonieorchester All-Gershwin and All-Mozart programs, Guest Conductor, 2006

SONOS Chamber Orchestra Music Director, 2000-present. See Repertoire [here](#).

La Mama Experimental Theater Rehearsal Conductor, 2009

International Touring Cover Conductor *Lord of the Rings* film trilogy 2008-2010 (and rehearsal pianist)
Orchestras in: Grand Rapids, Krakow, London, Luxembourg, Luzern, Lyon, Munich, Winnipeg, Wolf Trap
Lord of the Rings Symphony, 2004-2009
Orchestras in: Athens, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Glasgow, Hanover, Houston, Kansas City, Köln, Louisville, Omaha, Oslo, Portland, Richmond, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Spokane

Composer/Conductor Tan Dun Rehearsal Conductor, 2002-2008
Projects in: Amsterdam, Boston, Beijing, Denver, Leuven, Macau, New York City, Perth, Shanghai, Stockholm, Tanglewood, Tokyo, Wellington

Boston Symphony Orchestra Assistant Conductor, 2003 (World premiere with Yo-Yo Ma)

Boston Pops *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony*, 2017 – ON CALL Conductor

Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra Assistant Conductor, 1997-2001
Finnish Diction Coach, 1998

Apprentice Conductor Savonlinna Opera Festival (Finland): *Salome* and *Don Giovanni*, 2001
Chicago Lyric Opera: *Ariadne auf Naxos*, 1998
Houston Grand Opera: *Eugene Onegin*, 2002; *Billy Budd*, 1998

Bayreuth International Youth Festival Assistant Conductor: Orchestra program (1995), Opera program (1996)

Visiting Professor Huaqiao University (China): Chorus, diction, conducting, chamber music, 2016

Awards *Cultural Advocacy Award*, American Scandinavian Society, 2003

Films *The Show Goes On*, PBS television documentary, 2013
When the Curtain Falls, Columbia University Film School, 1998

Zoom Talks *Composers of African American and Latino Origin*, 2023
The Iconic John Williams, 2023
Trailblazing Composers who are Female, 2022
Music Composed for Young People, 2022
Erik's Favorite playlist, 2022
Music Composed for and influenced by Summer, 2022
Introduction to Opera, 2022

Introduction to Film Music, 2021

Introduction to the Instruments of the Orchestra, 2021

Introduction to the History of Classical Music, 2021

In Person Lectures *The Iconic Film music of John Williams, Vancouver, 2022*

Classical Music in Cartoons, 92Y, NYC, 2016 & 2017

Piano in Film Music, 92Y, NYC 2017

Sibelius' Kullervo, Columbia University, 1998

Wagner's Bayreuth, The Juilliard School, 1996

Languages French, German, Italian – “very good”

Finnish, Chinese, Russian, Japanese – “beginning”

Education Oregon Bach Festival, 2002. (Helmut Rilling)

Pierre Monteux School for Conductors, 1992-1996 (Charles Bruck)

Dartmouth College, A.B. 1994 (Efrain Guigui)

Selected Reviews

"Sensuality and synchronicity, matched by perfection, accompanied each of the melodies during *La La Land: Live in Concert*." *Bulgarian Monitor, December 8, 2017*

"White Hot Ovation: The performance drew magnificent applause." *Slaveikov Square, December 8, 2017*

"Little by little I was so drawn into the event, the combination of vision and music, that I forgot about who was playing what. I doubt that there is a bigger compliment I can give."

"[Ochsner] was of remarkable precision to the musical direction...the music of the orchestra seemed to emanate from the film. There was no distinction between the screen and the stage." *Radio Canada, July 3, 2017*

"The concert was shaped by musical excellence and by the successful realization of several discrete goals. Contemporary composers, represented by both short, occasional pieces and monumental works, were championed; young artists' careers were moved forward; neglected music was brought out for renewal." *TheaterScene.net, June 6, 2016*

"All the hallmarks of a great "Rite" were here..." *New York Times, June 13, 2013*

"Under the direction of SONOS conductor and co-founder, Erik Eino Ochsner, the orchestra and chorus performed magnificently, responding warmly and comfortably to Ochsner's musical leadership as though they had been working with the score for years." *TheaterScene.net, June 25, 2012*

"Watch this man, he is brilliant!" *Ontario Arts Review, July 8, 2012*

"The more than 200 members of the "fellowship" of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, directed by Erik Ochsner ... pulled out all the stops. They charmed and excited us during our magic carpet ride through Middle Earth." *The Epoch Times, July 9, 2012*

"...as a seasoned LOTR-conductor, Ochsner performed with firm confidence...it was a delight to note that the soloists, choirs and the orchestra performed Shore's score with precision under Ochsner's lead, without regressing to a mechanical copy of the original soundtrack." *AMFION.FI, April 30, 2011*

"The performance was conducted by Erik Ochsner, who appeared quite seasoned, perfectly syncing the live orchestra to the full movie...they didn't miss a beat." *STLMOVIES.NET, April 4, 2011*

"Conductor Erik Ochsner's energy and enthusiasm was obvious and contagious. I could tell from the very beginning that he was as excited to be there as was the crowd, and the orchestra responded with an incredible energy as well.... Did I say this was a great performance?" *gbrettmiller's posterous, April 2, 2011*

"Under the baton of guest conductor Erik Ochsner...the symphony sounded like the finely tuned instrument it has become over the years. Even the more rhythmically tricky and aggressively "modern" parts of the score...sounded flawless." *KDHX, April 2, 2011*

"Erik Ochsner's rehearsal for *The Lord of the Rings Symphony* was most efficient, demanding, helpful and fun for all our singers. He is a remarkable leader under pressure!" *Amy Kaiser, Director, Saint Louis Symphony Chorus, September, 2008*

"American guest conductor Erik E. Ochsner took it easy at first. Then he led the Symphony musicians accurately and distinctly through the rhythmic cliffs and fast-changing mood of the music." *Im Spiegel der Presse (Leipzig, Germany), May 22, 2006*

References

Rachel Stegeman
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Concertmaster at Youngstown Symphony Orchestra
Concertmaster at Wheeling Symphony Orchestra
Adjunct Faculty at Duquesne University
Associate Concertmaster at Pittsburgh Ballet
Associate Concertmaster at Pittsburgh Opera
Adjunct Professor of Violin, Mary Pappert School of Music
(Duquesne University)
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Freelance violinist
Librarian, Youngstown Symphony Orchestra

Adam Thomas
(270) 231-0476

Former Director of Operations at the Louisville Orchestra

Pam Ajango
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Instructor of Oboe, Butler University
2nd oboe/English horn, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra

Jill Arbetter
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Executive Director at The Elmar Oliveira International
Violin Competition

Selected Internet Links

(Links will take you to highlighted webpages)

	ErikOchsner.com
	"Erik Ochsner, with surgical precision and palpable passion, guided the orchestra through the twists and turns of this complex score." Nightmare Before Christmas
	"Conductor Erik Ochsner believes in the five Ps — proper planning prevents poor performance." Tribune Chronicle – April 11, 2023
	Krakow Film Music Festival 2024: Lion King in Concert (1994, animated)
	"The Empire strikes back in cine-concert: the force was with us" LudwigVanMontreal
	Krakow Film Music Festival 2019: Disney in Concert: The Magic of Music
	Krakow Film Music Festival 2018 Concert Clip: Disney in Concert: Beauty and the Beast (2017) Beauty and the Beast (Live Action) / Koncert Disneya: <i>Piękna i Bestia</i>
	Krakow Film Music Festival 2018 Summary: Disney in Concert: Beauty and the Beast (2017) Beauty and the Beast (Live Action) / Koncert Disneya: <i>Piękna i Bestia</i>
	A Lovely Night with the San Antonio Symphony playing the music of 'La La Land'
	Taipei: Disney in Concert: Beauty and the Beast (2017) Beauty and the Beast (Live Action)
	Krakow Film Music Festival 2016: Frozen (in Polish) in Krakow Poland for 10,000! Frozen / Koncert Disneya: <i>Kraina lodu</i>
	Krakow Film Music Festival 2014: Pixar in Concert on International Children's Day
	"From Bach to Spock. Oregon Symphony plays Star Trek" KGW NBC Portland
	Erik Ochsner on conducting Star Trek: "Goose Bumps and Tears are NOT OPTIONAL!" Schmopera.com interview
	A 4-Piano 'Rite' With Bang 'Rite of Spring,' With Clanging Pianos and Drums Review of SONOS concert at [le] poisson rouge



June 5, 2024

Erik Ochsner is a conductor truly worth his weight in gold! I recently have worked with him as his Concertmaster at the Youngstown Symphony in Youngstown, Ohio during our 2023 and 2024 seasons. The programs Erik conducted were incredibly diverse both in their outreach to the community and the types of music offered.

The mainstays of the classical music repertoire are something at which Erik is more than superb in his interpretation, preparation and deliverance. Equally comfortable with Mahler, Mozart, and Strauss, our orchestra really rose to the occasion when Erik guest conducted in Youngstown and the audience not only loved his artistic interpretations, but also his speaking from the stage, which was formal and creative, yet also educational and most importantly engaging.

When asked to create his own ideal unique program, Erik came up with a profoundly original Finnish/American blend to partner with the city of Youngstown and the idea of the history of its steel and water themes. The tie-ins were not only amazing and iconic, but he also introduced incredible new and engaging repertoire to Youngstown, which was enthusiastically received by audience and musicians alike.

Finally, Erik is very at home with high technological situations within traditional classical venues. The Vindys (a rock group) rocked it out in Youngstown with high tech setups and a full mixing board with audio personnel support. Erik was very hip and attentive to their style, helping to add to their cool factor and the groove that they needed in their music when guiding the orchestra. It was an orchestral rock concert on steroids!

In the orchestral scoring live to picture productions of Ghostbusters and Home Alone, Erik's masterful rendition to picture was nothing less than perfect. Incredible experience, expertise and enthusiasm was apparent from moment number one with the orchestra. The performances went swimmingly well and not a beat was dropped in those shows!

Needless to say, I am enthusiastic about Erik and his contributions in my experience with him at the Youngstown Symphony, but more importantly, in the art form of today's contemporary

conductor model, who needs to be equally comfortable and competent in all programmed music from Mahler, to Motown, to Major Motion Pictures! My personal experience includes being a commercial recording artist in the Los Angeles recording studios for 15 years, performing as Associate Concertmaster in the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra for 15 years, playing with the Pittsburgh Symphony for over a decade, being Concertmaster for the Wheeling Symphony and the Youngstown Symphony for a combined total of over 25 years, and more I could say, but in all of that experience Erik Oschner has set himself in a position in my opinion of greatness in this art field.

Erik Ochsner will be a true treasure for any orchestra that is lucky enough to have him as their music director, guest conductor, or musical advisor in any capacity. I can't recommend him highly enough!

Sincerely,

Rachel Stegeman

Concertmaster, Youngstown Symphony
Concertmaster, Wheeling Symphony
Associate Concertmaster, Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra
Associate Concertmaster, Pittsburgh Ballet Orchestra
Adjunct Violin Faculty, Duquesne University
Founder, Violin and Viola Boot Camp

www.FiddlersToolInc.com

www.duq.edu

www.pittsburghopera.com

www.pittsburghballettheatre.com

www.youngstownsymphony.com

www.wheelingsymphony.com

15.03.2025 Kraków

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Trumpet Lecturer
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Erik Ochsner, an outstanding conductor with whom I have had the privilege of collaborating. Our professional engagements included "The Lion King in Concert" at the Film Music Festival in Kraków and the "Gala Aptekarzy" at the National Philharmonic in Warsaw.

Erik Ochsner is a conductor of exceptional musicality and sensitivity. His approach to music goes far beyond mere performance—he inspires musicians to elevate their artistry, creating interpretations that are both profound and captivating. An orchestra knows everything about how the work will feel within the first five minutes of rehearsal. With Erik, it was simply comfortable —playing, listening, and making music. The Orchestra loves his sensitivity and approach to music. Even the most difficult passages become much easier to play when you see support — or even just a smile — in front of you. His conducting technique is of the highest standard; his gestures are clear, precise, and expressive, ensuring seamless communication with the orchestra. Additionally, his extensive musical knowledge and ability to convey it in a clear and engaging manner make working with him an enriching and rewarding experience.

While Erik is widely recognized for his expertise in film and popular music, his talents extend equally to the classical repertoire. His passion for music, coupled with his remarkable ability to connect with both musicians and audiences, makes every concert under his direction a truly unforgettable experience.

I highly recommend Erik Ochsner for any orchestral production. His leadership, expertise, and artistic vision are invaluable assets to any ensemble. It would be a privilege for any orchestra to work under his baton.

Sincerely,

Grzegorz Bizukojć

*Grzegorz
Bizukojć*

June 1, 2024

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Erik Ochsner.

Throughout my career as principal substitute with the Montreal Symphony and the productions of the FILMHarmonique, I have had the opportunity to work with several conductors, and Erik clearly stands out among them. He is not only remarkably humble but also incredibly capable as a conductor.

I had the privilege of collaborating with Erik for the trilogy of concerts of *Star Wars: Live in Concert*, an experience that ranks among the highlights of my career. His ability to convey the required emotions of the music while allowing the musicians to shine is truly exceptional. His conducting skills are precise and articulate, mirroring his adeptness in communicating with the audience. Witnessing the level of engagement and enthusiasm from the crowd during his concerts was unparalleled; it felt akin to attending a rock show.

Therefore, without hesitation, I highly recommend Erik not only for pop and movie concerts but also for classical repertoire. His talent and passion for music are evident in every performance, making him an invaluable asset to any production.

Bruno Laurence Joyal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruno Joyal', with a stylized, flowing script.



February 6, 2016

Letter of Recommendation for Erik Ochsner

From Robert Piaskowski, Artistic Director Krakow Film Music Festival

Great conductors are swept up in the music. They are passionate. They don't just play with their head; they also play with their heart. You can read it on their face. You can sense it in their movement. They are fully present and "playing full out." Erik was like that from the very beginning of *Frozen*! Both his performance of Pixar in Concert and *Frozen* were enjoyable experiences for me!

To Erik: Thank you for your professional approach and brilliant conducting!

Robert Piaskowski
poczta@biurofestiwalowe.pl



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ul. Wygrana 2, 30-311 Kraków
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<http://fmf.fm/en>

12 September 2011

RECOMMENDATION FOR MAESTRO ERIK E. OCHSNER



**Tampere
Philharmonic
Orchestra**

Hannu Lintu,
Artistic Director

Maritta Hirvonen,
General Manager

Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra had the great pleasure to work with Maestro Erik Ochsner for one week in May 2011.

The project was "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring: Live to Projection," with Howard Shore's complete film score. It included an orchestra of 100 musicians, two vocal soloists, adult choir, children's choir and a very ambitious live film production. The marathon project included a couple of rehearsals and four concerts in the Big Auditorium of Tampere Hall, which seats 1,800; all concerts were totally sold out.

I have nothing but positive things to say about conductor Erik Ochsner. This kind of a project with 200+ performers demands a lot from everybody and I must say that Mr. Ochsner pulled through gloriously. I especially admired his endless patience and kindness, when he rehearsed the young soloists who did not have very much experience.

The chairman of Tampere Philharmonic Choir Mr. Aki Leppänen says following from his part:

"During my 23 years of choral singing, seldom have I seen such true musical professionalism combined with good nature, compassion and people handling skills. He is justly demanding and organized as well as humane at the same time. This is rare."

I warmly recommend Erik Ochsner as a really professional, talented and hard working conductor for the most demanding projects.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Maritta Hirvonen.

Maritta Hirvonen
General Manager
Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra

November 16, 2012

Letter of Recommendation for conductor Erik Ochsner

As being one of Sweden's most published and performed composers of my time, I want to verify Mr. Erik Ochsner's true musicianship and artistry as a conductor and Music Director.

I had the privilege to collaborate with him in the process of having the U.S. premiere of my *Requiem for mixed Choir, Soloists and Orchestra* in New York City, June 2012. Erik is a great conductor in a both technical and musically sense. He has a clear and distinct feeling for music and is very good in communicating this with singers and musicians. I felt very comfortable with his interpretation in two ways: He always had his own visions and thoughts about my work but he was also very perceptive towards me as a composer and my music. I think this is invaluable when it comes to present a new piece of music in a trustworthily way.

I can therefore recommend Erik Ochsner for any kind of assignment as a conductor and Music Director.

Fredrik Sixten, composer