

Geoffrey Simon—Reviews & Comments



"The orchestra under his leadership sounded transformed, suddenly becoming a blended, unified musical body."

Gerhard Kramer *Die Presse* Vienna

"A gripping, wholly committed performance of *Verklaerte Nacht* that was the most dramatically intense it has been my pleasure to hear, a judgement not excluding Boulez, Barenboim and von Karajan. Superbly balanced and phrased throughout, Simon delivered the piece as a single, colossal arch of sound, blending sensitivity and ardour in a way that was overwhelming in its impact."

Mozelle Moshansky *Classical Music* London

"Simon seems to have an unerring ear for beautiful sound. Not since the great days of Leopold Stokowski and Eugene Ormandy has a young conductor led performances that were at once so tasteful and individual and simply drenched in the most sumptuous of sounds."

Byron Belt *Newhouse News*

"Geoffrey Simon obviously has a great affinity for Mahler. He has the admirable ability to grasp the music as a whole and the technique to shape the individual passages so that they add up to the ultimate huge architecture. We are lucky indeed that he has taken the leadership of this Festival and has given us such memorable Mahler over the years."

David Lamb *The Mahler List* Seattle

"The value of having a first-rate Music Director at the artistic helm was vividly demonstrated to Sacramento Symphony concertgoers Friday evening."

Robert Masullo *The Sacramento Bee*

"The searing beauty of these twenty-four cellos rivets your attention..."

Francis Brancaleone *Gannett Newspapers*

"Conductor Geoffrey Simon has such charm that his name alone will make me want to go to any of his future concerts. Through his ability to connect with the audience, his lively sense of humour and outstanding leadership, he captivated everyone in attendance."

lalawin.com *Seoul*

Recent Comments by Musicians and Managers

Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra, Texas

"It is I who should thank you for stepping in on inadequate notice and providing such an exceptional musical experience to both musicians and audience. Reports are glowing, morale is high, and I know the performances will be terrific. Bravo!"

Robert Carter Austin *Music Director*

"What a terrific concert last night! Thank you for the wonderful performance of *Divinum Mysterium*. You brought a genuine sweep to the piece. It worked beautifully! The piece is now sounding as I hoped it would when I first conceived it."

Kenneth Fuchs *Composer*

"Many thanks for coming to work with the LCSO. It was an incredible experience for all involved. You brought the LCSO to a new artistic level and brought such enthusiasm to the orchestra. It was a joy to work with you.

Deborah Hawkins *Executive Director*

"The Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra wishes to thank Paul Silverthorne, Maestro Geoffrey Simon, and composer Kenneth Fuchs for presenting a performance of a lifetime!! It was an incredible experience for all involved! Many thanks!!"

Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra *Facebook*

"Maestro Simon was amazing. I can say that rehearsals seemed to barely start and then they were over. The three hours gone in a flash because the whole time I was absorbed in the experience. I am grateful to be a part of such a great experience. He brought the music to life! Thank you, Maestro Simon!"

LCSO Musician *Facebook*

"What a wonderful experience I had performing Saturday night with the Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra! The opportunity to play such a wonderful composition by Kenneth Fuchs under the superb musical direction of Maestro Geoffrey Simon of a work written for and played by the incredible violist Paul Silverthorne in the superior acoustics of Carpenter Performance Hall in the Irving Arts Center is an experience I shall not forget. I wish to thank EVERYONE who helped make this experience possible!"

LCSO Musician *Facebook*

"This past week was easily one of the greatest musical experiences I have had on my journey. The positive energy that Maestro Geoffrey Simon got from the orchestra was genuine, and he didn't have to labor while doing it. It was very natural! It was one of those experiences that really puts some 'wind in your sails!'"

LCSO Musician *Facebook*

Canberra Symphony Orchestra

"Thank you so much for working with the CSO!! The fantastic responses to your concert continue to flow in from audience members who were deeply moved and thrilled by the concert experience you created. I am honoured that you would have taken the time from your busy schedule to spend this week with us in Canberra."

Nicholas Milton *Chief Conductor and Artistic Director*

"Thank you once again for agreeing to come to Canberra to share in the joy of wonderful music making over this past week. Both concerts were a triumph and the attendances were at capacity. I would like to thank you for your important contribution to the success of our first Llewellyn concerts in 2013. Your positive engagement with our players was very much appreciated."

Henry Laska *Chief Executive Officer*

"A quick email to say how much I enjoyed working with you in Canberra. It was an invaluable learning experience for me and I look forward to more mentoring from you through Arts Global / Australian Music Foundation!"

Emily Sun *Violin Soloist*

Fort Worth Symphony: *PianoTexas* International Academy & Festival

"I am writing in appreciation of your contribution to the 30th Anniversary of *PianoTexas*. Your preparation of the soloists for the Beethoven concerto program was superb and they performed above themselves at the concert. The mutual respect between you and the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra was apparent from the moment you began conducting. You drew sensitive, nuanced and stylistically pleasing playing from the orchestra musicians, and they were very complimentary of your work. Without doubt we will invite you to return in the near future."

Dr Tamás Ungár *Executive Director*

London Cello Orchestra—Tour of South Korea

"It was a first for me to attend a concert by an orchestra consisting only of cellos, and I was somewhat apprehensive. But with the entry of the conductor my earlier concerns were replaced by excitement. It is expected that a conductor will hold a microphone in order to introduce himself, but when Geoffrey Simon spoke to the audience in Korean it astonished them, and drew loud applause."

lalawin.com *Seoul*

"I was drawn deeply into the sound of the cello ensemble. It was as if I could actually feel the movement of the hands of the 20 players—even their smallest vibrations—responding in accordance with conductor Geoffrey Simon's lead. The unfolding of the program was like a drama for me."

whiteink.tistory.com *Seoul*

"Australian-born Geoffrey Simon gave us a wonderful experience. He made the audience happy with his joyful presence, never losing his good humour."

daum.net *Seoul*

***The Soldier's Tale*, Arts Global Ensemble, Washington DC**

"Thank you so much for your dynamic musicianship and support."

Arts Global Ensemble President

"It was an absolute honor and privilege to work with you. It was an incredible experience and I do look forward to doing it again soon!"

Arts Global Ensemble Musician

"Truly been a pleasure playing with you. You really took the piece to the next level. I'm also inspired by your seemingly endless joy! Thanks!"

Arts Global Ensemble Musician

"Maestro, I have had an amazing time working with you! You have breathed so much life into this piece, and I truly hope we get to work together again."

Arts Global Ensemble Musician

"Thank you Maestro for such an incredible experience and inspiring us with your musicality and spirit! I hope we can work together again!"

Arts Global Ensemble Musician

"Maestro, working with you has been an absolute pleasure. You are so inspiring. Thank you!!!"

Arts Global Ensemble Musician

Camden Youth Orchestra, London

"Thank you so much for coming in on Sunday and working with the CYO string section. They all seemed to enjoy your session, and to have got a lot out of it. I have seldom seen them so focussed! The team also got a great deal from your session, and we have already planned to include some work on bow division and sound production in each string sectional from now on."

Deborah Rees *Deputy Head of Service (Achievement and Aspiration), London Borough of Camden*

"Thank you for giving of yourself yesterday and for doing a superlative job with the Camden Youth Orchestra. I thought that the orchestra responded well to you and that the way that you interacted with them was well-judged. And they responded in kind. The outcome was inspirational Geoffrey, truly amazing. The pieces worked well too, particularly the Brahms as did the Janos Starker bow distribution exercise. You showed that you respected the kids while giving them some space to be themselves. That can be a hard balance to strike and I thought that you got that just right."

Matthew Daines *Trustee, Camden Youth Orchestra*

Suffolk County Youth Orchestra, Long Island, New York

"I want to thank you for the wonderful experience you gave the music students of Suffolk County. It truly was an experience of a lifetime for many of them and will long be remembered by all of us. We would love to have you back."

Patricia Isenberg *Director*

The Playhouse Project: Master Classes and Workshops, East Hampton, New York

"The support and enthusiasm from Maestro Simon was absolutely inspiring, and we are truly grateful that we were included in today's program."

Steve Watson *Coach of the Hook Mill String Quartet*

"I found the master class, as conducted by Geoffrey Simon, thrilling. Almost every one of the students should have felt uplifted. The memory—kinetic, emotional, aural—should stay with them and give them something to strive for."

Helen Rattray *Publisher, East Hampton Star*

"We feel Maestro Simon left each of them with positive life-long strategies for improvement."

Phyllis Power *Head of Music, Shelter Island High School*

"The day was more than amazing. Geoffrey Simon was an inspiration to all."

Barbara Sansone and **Jerry Schwabe** *Major Donors*

"The rehearsal/workshop was a memorable experience for me: stunning playing elicited by Maestro Simon, an exceptional degree of emotional and technical investment, and rapid improvement in the ensemble's sound in a matter of a few minutes. What an afternoon. What a project—so full of good spirit, good works, youthful promise and marvellous music making."

Roger Ames *Composer*

"It was transformational and such an incredibly important gift to the community!"

Karen Hensel *Community Member*

CelloSpeak, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania

"Your spontaneity and generosity were matched only by your artistic and organizational skills to make this an incredible experience for all of us. I do thank you, Geoffrey, for the wonderful gift of yourself to all of us at CelloSpeak. You were magnificent."

Dorothy Amarandos *Founder and Artistic Director*

Individual Artists: Coaching and Mentoring

"I would like to thank Geoffrey Simon deeply for his mentoring and support leading up to my major performances and competitions this year so far. He has been an invaluable source of motivation and inspiration, taking time to help me achieve my goals.

I greatly look forward to working under his guidance in the future through the generous support of the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust and Arts Global. Thank you so much, Geoffrey!!"

Som Howie *Clarinet (Australia; resident in London)*

"I have been tremendously lucky in being able to play for Geoffrey Simon regularly over the past six years. With his incredibly valuable and quite rare ability to consistently get me to play better than I myself imagined I could, I owe such a very great deal of my progress to Geoffrey and the sessions that I've been fortunate enough to have with him!

It's precisely this quality of being able to so clearly see a musician's potential (even when they themselves are unaware of it) mixed with his ruthless honesty and startlingly precise insight into how to overcome hurdles (something all too often missing from feedback that I've gotten from others over the years) that makes Geoffrey truly the best mirror I could wish for as a musician. Thank you so much for all of your generous support over the years, Geoffrey!"

James Oesi *Double Bass (South Africa; resident in Amsterdam)*

"Thank you so much for the inspiration you gave me during our coaching session last weekend! Your endless enthusiasm for reaching the deepest layers of the music with perfect precision, supported by your infinite positive energy, makes me experience a unique progress in my performance, and helps me to quickly overcome the boundaries I thought were unsurpassable...

I am looking forward to work with you again—to make the next steps towards a high level complex artistry!"

Éva Szalai *Piano (Hungary; resident in The Hague)*

"I have been fortunate enough to work with Maestro Geoffrey Simon over the years and recently had a number of coachings in preparation for an upcoming concerto appearance. Given that the majority of my performance experience to this point had been solo and chamber music recitals, we worked on ensuring a secure integration of the solo part with the orchestra. The advice I received was exceptionally helpful.

What struck me most, however, was not only Maestro Simon's musical knowledge and deep musicality but his genuine warmth and excitement for the music, and the obvious enjoyment he took in sharing this with me. Every note and every gesture was given the utmost attention, nothing was treated as superfluous, and he encouraged me to remain focused and thoughtful at every moment.

Whilst this in itself was invaluable, what was perhaps most remarkable was the way he drew the sound from me and my guitar, bringing forth a warmth, richness and depth that I was not accessing. The end result was so noticeable that the orchestral musicians and audience alike made comments to me after the performances about my sound and presence, and how surprised they were at hearing a guitar float so majestically above the orchestra, unamplified.

Thank you Maestro Simon for such rewarding and enriching coaching."

Jacob Cordover *Guitar (Australia; resident in Barcelona)*