

Sarah Hicks, Associate Conductor
The Lucy Moore Ruffin Chair

Sarah Hicks begins her second season as North Carolina Symphony Associate Conductor in 2010/11.

Noted in *The New York Times* as part of “a new wave of female conductors in their late 20s through early 40s,” Sarah Hicks’s versatile and vibrant musicianship has secured her place in “the next generation of up-and-coming American conductors.” Recently appointed principal conductor, pops and presentations, of the Minnesota Orchestra, she also hosts and conducts the orchestra's innovative “Inside the Classics” series. She concurrently holds the position of staff conductor at the Curtis Institute of Music. Throughout her career she has collaborated with diverse soloists, from Hilary Hahn and Nigel Kennedy to Ben Folds and Chris Botti.

Hicks has guest conducted extensively both in the United States and abroad, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Columbus Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Delaware Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Prime Philharmonic (Seoul, Korea) and the Charleston Symphony. Her opera credits include the New National Theatre Tokyo and the Curtis Opera Theater. Guest conducting appearances include the National Symphony as well as a recording project with the Vermont Symphony and soloists Jaime Laredo and Sharon Robinson.

Born in Tokyo, Japan, and raised in Honolulu, Hicks trained on both the piano and viola and was a prizewinning pianist by her early teens. She received her B.A. magna cum laude from Harvard University as a composition major; her *AIDS Oratorio* premiered at Harvard University in May 1993 and received a second performance at the Fogg Art Museum. She holds an artists’ degree in conducting from the Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with renowned pedagogue Otto-Werner Mueller.