

**William Henry Curry**  
**Resident Conductor and Summerfest Artistic Director**  
*The Governor and Mrs. J. Melville Broughton Chair*

William Henry Curry starts his 13th season with the North Carolina Symphony in 2008-09. He came to the North Carolina Symphony by way of New Orleans where he served as Resident Conductor of the New Orleans Symphony. Maestro Curry serves as the artistic director for Summerfest and all North Carolina Symphony summer programs.

A native of Pittsburgh, Curry started conducting and composing music at age 14. His first major appointment was at age 21 when he was named Assistant Conductor of the Richmond Chamber Orchestra. He also served as Resident Conductor with the Baltimore Symphony and with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Maestro Curry was appointed Associate Conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony in 1983, a post he held until 1988, the same year he was named winner of the Leopold Stokowski Conducting Competition and performed in Carnegie Hall.

Maestro Curry has conducted over forty orchestras, including appearances with the Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, National, Detroit, Denver, American, Atlanta, Shreveport and San Diego symphonies, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Israel Camerata Jerusalem orchestra, as well as the orchestras of Indianapolis, Detroit, New Jersey, Bangkok and Taiwan and with the New York City Ballet in their famed Balanchine production of *The Nutcracker*. Opera engagements include the Houston Grand Opera, Chicago Opera Theater and the New York City Opera.

Maestro Curry is also a composer, and his works have been played by many of America's finest orchestras. On June 13, 1999, the Indianapolis Symphony premiered his latest work, *Eulogy for a Dream*. This work, based on the speeches and writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a tremendous success and was broadcast nationally on the National Public Radio program *Performance Today*. The late William Warfield of *Porgy and Bess* fame narrated the North Carolina premiere to enthusiastic audience and critical acclaim in January 2002.