

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

William Henry Curry starts his fifteenth season with the North Carolina Symphony in 2010-11. Maestro Curry serves as the artistic director for Summerfest and all North Carolina Symphony summer programs. He also begins his second season as music director of the Durham Symphony Orchestra this fall.

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 Saint 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, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Israel Camerata Jerusalem Orchestra, as well as the orchestras of Indianapolis, 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 New York City Opera.

Last season, at the invitation of the U.S. Department of State, Maestro Curry spent two weeks in Taiwan presenting master classes in conducting and leading concerts of American music to a response labeled “rousing” by the American Institute in Taiwan, “with Curry and the orchestra netting three encores and a total of four standing ovations.” His final performance was filmed and shown throughout the country on Taiwan’s Public Television Service. This year, he will conduct the Charlotte Symphony and North Carolina Dance Theatre’s production of *The Nutcracker* in ten performances, following his laudable debut in that role last December.

Maestro Curry is also a composer, and his works have been played by many of America’s finest orchestras. The Indianapolis Symphony premiered his work *Eulogy for a Dream*. The late William Warfield of *Porgy and Bess* fame narrated the North Carolina premiere to an enthusiastic audience and critical acclaim in January 2002.