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CRANE

The Crane School of Music • SUNY Potsdam

Crane Symphony Orchestra

The Crane Symphony Orchestra is the second oldest college orchestra in the United States, and in its long legacy, students at Crane have worked with legendary conductors and musicians, such as Nadia Boulanger, Sarah Caldwell, Aaron Copland, Howard Hanson, Gunther Schuller, and Robert Shaw, to name a few.

The mission for Crane Symphony Orchestra is not only pursuing a high-standard of performance. We are also committed to providing students with an excellent ensemble experience as part of the education for future music teachers, performers, scholars, composers, and music industry leaders.

The Crane Symphony Orchestra performs a wide range orchestral repertoire, from baroque to contemporary music. Every year, the CSO performs four full symphonic concerts and two concerts in collaboration with the Crane Chorus. In 2016, the Crane Symphony Orchestra and the Crane Chorus performed at Carnegie Hall with guest conductor Duain Wolfe (director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus), and in 2012, the two ensembles took the stage at the Avery Fisher Hall in New York City, performing Verdi's *Requiem*. In 2013, under guest conductor Christof Perick, in collaboration with American Boychoir, Crane Symphony Orchestra and Crane Chorus performed Benjamin Britten's monumental *War Requiem*. Other re-

cent guest conductors include JoAnn Falletta, Larry Rachleff and Joseph Flummerfelt.

The Orchestra also tours regularly. Recently, CSO performed at the NYSSMA Winter Conference, on Long Island, and in the Albany area. In 2020, the orchestra will perform with the Crane Chorus at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center under the baton of guest conductor Maestra Sara Hicks.

Crane Chamber Orchestra

The chamber orchestra concentrates on the study and performance of repertoire written for this orchestration, ranging from baroque to contemporary music.

Crane Opera Orchestra

Instrumental students at Crane have opportunity to join the opera orchestra, which performs fully-staged operatic works with the Crane Opera Ensemble. The size of the ensemble depends on specific work being performed, which is drawn from Baroque through contemporary operatic and musical theatre repertoire.

The Crane Opera Ensemble was the winner of the 2015 and 2003 (Division 3), and co-winner of the 2009 (Division 2) National Opera Association Collegiate Production Competitions. The spring 2010 production of *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* was awarded first place in the American Prize in Operatic Per-

formance competition while the 2017 production of *The Tender Land* was awarded 3rd place (both in the College/University Division).

In 2018, Crane premiered *Mayo*, a new opera Crane commissioned from Tom Cipullo through the Domenic J. Pellicciotti Opera Composition Prize. A new opera commission and premiere is in the works for 2024.



Auditions

Students wishing to perform in the orchestras must take a placement audition, scheduled during the first two days of each semester. Each studio faculty administers their own auditions, and in consultation with ensemble directors, determines ensemble placements and seating. Information such as time, location and materials needed for auditions may be obtained from the respective studio teacher. While auditions for Crane performing ensembles are open to all students, the audition process is rigorous and competitive.

Faculty

Adrian Slywotzky is the Director of Orchestras at the Crane School of Music. An avid exponent of contemporary music, Prof. Slywotzky directed the world premiere of Hugo Kauder's magnum opus, the opera *Merlin*. He is a prizewinner of the Atlantic Coast International Conducting Competition (Portugal, 2016) and the Audite International Conducting Competition (Poland, 2017). He was the founding conductor of the Yale Medical Symphony Orchestra, and from 2007 to 2010 music director of the New Haven Chamber Orchestra. He served as Associate Director of Orchestras at the University of Michigan from 2019 to 2022. He has served as Associate Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, as teaching fellow for the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra, and on the faculty of the Conductors Retreat at Medomak. He was conductor of the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra for 2008-2010. Professor Slywotzky holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the Yale School of Music.

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