

metropolis ensemble



ANDREW CYR / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Grammy-nominated conductor Andrew Cyr, a “prominent influence in the world of newly emerging music” (Washington Post), is a leader in the rapidly growing contemporary music scene. His passion for creating new platforms for outstanding emerging composers and performing artists led him to found Metropolis Ensemble in 2006.

Cyr's work as conductor has been described by Esa-Pekka Salonen as “...precise, rhythmically incisive and fluid. He made complex new pieces sound natural and organic.” In addition to championing new work from the next generation of composers, Cyr has also led performances and recordings with a broad range of artists who defy classification, including Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, Ragnar Kjartansson, Emily Wells, Wye Oak, Deerhoof, and the Paris band BabX, among

others. Recent engagements include the presenters such as Cité de la Musique, Paris, France, The Met Museum, Hollywood Bowl, Australia's *Melbourne Festival* and BAM's *Next Wave Festival* (conducting the US Premiere of *Bangsokol: A Requiem for Cambodia*), Arts Emerson. In 2014, he led an orchestral performance at Radio City Music Hall debut as part of Dave Chappelle's much-heralded comedy show, NYU's Symphony Orchestra at The Skirball Center for Performing Arts, as well as his first appearance conducting Metropolis Ensemble on *The Tonight Show*. In 2013, Cyr made conducting debuts with The Colorado Symphony (along with mandolinist Avi Avital) and led the American Premiere of a new opera by David Bruce at New Victory Theatre, co-produced by The Royal Opera House II and The Opera Group.

Cyr's work as a recording artist leading Metropolis Ensemble in their first studio album, which featured Avner Dorman's *Concertos*, earned him a Classical Nomination in the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards. In 2013, a work commissioned and recorded with Metropolis Ensemble, Vivian Fung's *Violin Concerto*, was the winner of Canada's prestigious Juno Award for Best Classical Composition (Naxos). A third studio album was recorded at Tanglewood's Ozawa Hall and released to critical acclaim on Nonesuch Records, featuring works Metropolis Ensemble commissioned from Brooklyn-based composer Timo Andres.

New studio album releases for the spring of 2019 include a collaboration with Emily Wells and a second album on Nonesuch Records (also with New Amsterdam Records) featuring the music of William Britelle (with Wye Oak and The Brooklyn Youth Chorus). Upcoming appearances in 2019/20 include his LA Music Center debut and performances in Cambodia, Taiwan, and Mass MoCA.

Cyr is a native of Fort Kent, Maine, and holds music degrees from Bates College, the French National Conservatory (*Etudes Supérieures*), and Westminster Choir College. His musical mentors include conductors Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt, Kenneth Kiesler, and Kynan Johns, and organists Pierre Grandmaison, Marion Anderson, and Harvey Burgett. For his contributions to the field of new music, Cyr was awarded a Robert Rauschenberg Fellowship in 2014.