

The CONDUCTOR is the most visible member of the orchestra. The orchestra is like a team, and the conductor acts as the leader. He or she keeps the players together by waving a stick, called a baton, in a certain pattern or beat, in the right hand. The conductor uses the left hand, face and body to give the orchestra signals about tempo (how fast or slow to play), when to start and stop, and when to get softer or louder. The conductor chooses the music and decides how it should be played. The conductor reads a score which shows every instrument's part. Being a conductor is a very complicated job, and it takes a lot of practice to learn how to conduct.

Michael Morgan was born in Washington DC, where he attended public schools and began conducting at the age of 12. While a student at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, he spent a summer at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood, studying with Gunther Schuller, Seiji Ozawa and Leonard Bernstein.

His operatic debut was in 1982 at the Vienna State Opera conducting Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. In 1986, Sir Georg Solti chose him to become the Assistant Conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a position he held for five years. In 1986, he was invited by Leonard Bernstein to make his debut with the New York Philharmonic.

In addition to his duties with the Oakland Symphony, Maestro Morgan serves as Artistic Director of the Oakland Youth Orchestra, Festival Opera in Walnut

Creek and teaches a graduate course in conducting at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

He makes appearances in the nation's schools each year, particularly in the East Bay, and is highly regarded as a champion of arts education and minority access to the arts. Mr. Morgan makes his home in Oakland, CA with his mother and sister.