

American conductor and composer Efraín Amaya was born in Venezuela, where he began his musical training. Continuing his studies in the United States, he earned two Bachelor's of music degrees in composition and piano from Indiana University, and a Master's degree in orchestral conducting from Rice University.

After returning to Venezuela Maestro Amaya became the Music Director & Conductor for one of the "El Sistema" Youth Symphony Orchestras based in the "Núcleo La Rinconada". He then returned to the USA where he held the position of Resident Conductor and Artist Lecturer in Music Theory at Carnegie Mellon University from 1993 to 2009. He also served as Associate Conductor with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra from 1994 to 2007. In addition he has been the Music Director & Conductor to the Greensburg American Opera, the Three Rivers Young People's Orchestra, the Westmoreland Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Carnegie Mellon Summer Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, and the Carnegie Mellon Contemporary Ensemble.

As a guest conductor Mr. Amaya has appeared with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Venezuela, the Orquesta Sinfónica Municipal de Caracas, the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar del Táchira, the Jóvenes Arcos de Venezuela, the Sinfónica de Maracaibo, the Orquesta Sinfónica de Tucumán (Argentina), the Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de Veracruz (Mexico), the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, the McKeesport Symphony Orchestra, the Washington Symphony Orchestra, the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra, the SOS Venezuelan Concerts Symphony Orchestra and several youth symphonies.

Maestro Amaya founded and was the Music Director of the Point Chamber Orchestra, which made its debut performance during the summer of 2006 with a tour of seven concerts in Italy. The Point Chamber Orchestra made a commercial CD released in 2009 with Albany Records label. It featured two of Mr. Amaya's chamber operas: *Clepsydra: An Operatic Installation with 13 Performers* and *Phantasmagorilla? No! Phantasmagoria*, receiving excellent reviews by Pittsburgh Magazine, the American Record Guide and Fanfare Magazine.

Mr. Amaya's compositions have been selected for performance at major international festivals, including the Seattle Symphony's Viva la Música Festival; the V Congreso Iberoamericano de Llíria, Spain, the Festival de Música de Santa Catarina in Brazil, the American Composers Orchestra Festival of Venezuelan Music at Weill Recital Hall in New York; the II Congreso Puertorriqueño de Creación Musical in San Juan among many others.

In 2004, Efraín Amaya received a Fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He was also a Meet The Composer Composer-in-Residence with Gateway to the Arts, WQED-FM, Renaissance City Wind Music Society and Shaler School District from September of 2001 to September 2004. His opera *Clepsydra* premiered as part of the First Night celebrations in Pittsburgh as a collaborative multimedia performance for tape, live performers, and edited video projection, sponsored by the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh and the Heinz Endowment.

His cello concerto *Un Camino*, commissioned by renowned cellist Kim Cook with a grant from the Pennsylvania Arts Council, premiered in August of 2013. Other recent works include *Archipiélagos* for Eb clarinet and piano, commissioned by Venezuelan virtuoso clarinetist Jorge Montilla; *Irmgard's Mementos*, a three movement piano solo work commissioned by Tanner Film and Art; *Chocolat* for solo bassoon commissioned and premiered by Jim R. Whipple; *Marahuaka*, a concerto for 3 marimbas and Wind Symphony Orchestra and *Epona's Portal*, a concerto for bassoon and Wind Symphony Orchestra both commissioned by Robert Boudreau and the American Wind Symphony Orchestra. His two act opera *La Bisbetica*, commissioned and performed by International Opera Theater was premiered in August of 2010 in Italy; it was then invited to participate in the Bergamo International Festival of 2011 at Bergamo, Italy.

Mr. Amaya was invited and completed a residency at Yaddo, NY, during the summer of 2012 where he worked on his latest chamber opera *Constellations*, which premiered in December of 2015 in Philadelphia. Since the Fall of 2012 he has been one of the four national adjudicators for the [National YoungArts Foundation](#) in Miami, for their national competition selection of finalists and Presidential Scholars nominees. He's also been since 2007 the Music Director of [TanzTheater André Koslowski](#) and the USA Chief Regional Officer of the [CELAM](#) (Centro Latinoamericano de Música). Mr. Amaya joined the faculty at [Minot State University](#) and was named the Music Director/Conductor to the Minot Symphony Orchestra in the Fall of 2015.

You may visit Mr. Amaya's Web page at: www.efrainamaya.com