

Hailed for his “expert direction” by the *Fanfare* magazine, **Ernesto Estigarribia** is the Assistant Conductor of the Quad City Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of their youth ensembles. He has previously served as Music Director of Buffalo Community Orchestra and Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras. Born and raised in Asunción, Paraguay, Mr. Estigarribia has performed extensively in North and South America, the Caribbean, and Europe both as a violist and conductor. With a passion for working with young musicians, he also serves as member of the conducting staff of the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies.

Mr. Estigarribia is a doctoral candidate in Orchestral Conducting, studying with Mark Russell Smith at the University of Minnesota where he is a recipient of the James Sample fellowship. At the University, he co-directed Campus Orchestras and served as Assistant Conductor for the University Symphony Orchestra and the University Opera Theater.

His festival appearances include YOA Orchestra of the Americas, Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme (England), Festival de Música de Santa Catarina (Brazil), Pienza Music Festival (Italy), International Festival Week of St. Petersburg Conservatory (Russia), and Academia Internacional Teatro del Lago (Chile). In 2016, Ernesto conducted the first recording of the “Concertino for Viola” by Brazilian composer Joao Ripper with violist Korey Konkol. In 2017, Ernesto was the first Paraguayan guest conductor to appear in the International series of Orquesta Sinfónica del Congreso Nacional (Paraguay), and was invited to return to conduct in 2018. Other recent conducting appearances include performances with the Rochester (MN) Symphony Orchestra, Oskaloosa Music Festival Orchestra, Orquesta del Centro del Conocimiento (Argentina), as well as *Gianni Schicchi* and *Idomeneo* with the University of Minnesota Opera Theater.

In his spare time, Estigarribia enjoys expanding his vegan cooking repertoire.