

## biography

Grammy Award winner Jeff Tyzik is recognized as one of America's most innovative pops conductors. Described by the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* as "among the best pops conductors in America," Tyzik is known for his brilliant arrangements, original programming, and engaging rapport with audiences of all ages. Now in his 17<sup>th</sup> season as Principal Pops Conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Tyzik also currently serves as Principal Pops Conductor of the Oregon Symphony and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

In his seventeen years with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO), Tyzik has developed an incredible relationship with devoted Rochester audiences who appreciate his creative pops programming. Over the course of his tenure, he has written over 160 works for the orchestra. A consummate musician, Tyzik is so appreciated in Rochester that the RPO has taken the unusual step of inviting their principal pops conductor to appear as a guest conductor in the orchestra's classical subscription series calendar on a regular basis. On his classical series concerts, Tyzik has performed works by some of the greatest American composers to critical acclaim. He has also been commissioned to compose original works for orchestra, including a Trombone Concerto, which was funded by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts and subsequently performed at Carnegie Hall, and a Timpani Concerto, commissioned by the RPO, was premiered in January 2010. Tyzik led the world premiere of his original work *New York Cityscapes* with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in June 2010. In May 2007, the Harmonia Mundi label released his recording of works by Gershwin with pianist Jon Nakamatsu and the RPO which stayed in the Top 10 on the Billboard classical chart for over 3 months. Alex Ross, music critic for *The New Yorker*, called it "one of the snappiest Gershwin discs in years".

"His concert is the kind of thing that's likely to give classical music a good name, perhaps even make it seem, dare I say, relevant," writes John Pitcher of the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* (February 3, 2006). "What's great about Tyzik is his way of making any concert (classical or pops) seem contemporary and approachable without sugarcoating anything, without dumbing down the musical experience."

Highly sought after as a guest conductor, Tyzik has recently appeared with orchestras such as the Boston Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, the New York Pops, the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, and the Dallas Symphony at the Vail Valley Music Festival. In addition to his commitments in Rochester, Oregon and Vancouver, during the 2010/11 season he performs with orchestras across North America including the Detroit, Milwaukee and Toronto symphony orchestras, as well as The Florida Orchestra and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, among others. Tyzik made his UK debut in June 2010 in Edinburgh and Glasgow with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in a three-week series of four popular programs.

A native of Hyde Park, New York, Tyzik began his life in music at nine years of age, when he first picked up a cornet. He studied both classical and jazz throughout high school, and went on to earn both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied composition/arranging with Radio City Music Hall's Ray Wright and jazz studies with the great band leader Chuck Mangione, both of whom profoundly impacted him as a musician.

Tyzik spent the next few years working with Mangione, soaking in every part of the music business. He became a skilled record producer, while continuing to be active as a performer and arranger (which included composing and arranging music for the Maynard Ferguson and Woody Herman Orchestras). These experiences led Tyzik to one of the great early opportunities of his career—the chance to co-compose a trumpet concerto with friend and virtuoso trumpeter Allen Vizzutti to be recorded by pops legend Doc Severinsen.

After that first recording project, Tyzik worked closely with Severinsen on many projects including orchestrating many of the great band leader's symphony orchestra programs, and producing a GRAMMY Award-winning album, *The Tonight Show Band with Doc Severinsen, Vol. 1*.

As an accomplished composer and arranger, Tyzik has had his compositions recorded by ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Summit Brass, and his arrangements have been recorded by groups including Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, the RPO, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and Doc Severinsen with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London. He has also produced and composed theme music for many of the major television networks, including ABC, NBC, HBO, and Cinemax, and released six of his own albums on Capitol, Polygram and Amherst Records.

Committed to performing music of all genres, Tyzik has collaborated with such diverse artists as Tony Bennett, Art Garfunkel, Dawn Upshaw, Marilyn Horne, Arturo Sandoval, Wynonna Judd, The Chieftains, Mark O'Connor, Doc Severinsen, John Pizzarelli, Billy Taylor and Lou Rawls, and has created original programs that include the greatest music from jazz and classical to Motown and swing.

Actively sharing his passion for music with others, Tyzik has been recognized for his community service and educational work by Rotary International, the Monroe County Music Educators, and the Rochester Philharmonic League. He is also the recipient of the Arts & Cultural Council of Greater Rochester's 2002 Performing Artist award.

Tyzik currently serves on the Board of Managers of the Eastman School of Music, and as a board member of the Hochstein School of Music and Dance. He lives in Rochester, New York, with his wife Jill. For more information about Tyzik, please visit [www.jefftyzik.com](http://www.jefftyzik.com).

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## **Short Biography**

Grammy Award winner Jeff Tyzik has earned a reputation as one of America's most innovative pops conductors, recognized for his brilliant arrangements, original programming, and engaging rapport with audiences of all ages. The 2010-11 season marks his seventeenth season as Principal Pops Conductor of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. He also serves as Principal Pops Conductor of the Oregon Symphony and the

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Highly sought after as a guest conductor, Tyzik's recent guest appearances include the Boston Pops and the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. He has also appeared with the Cincinnati Pops, the New York Pops, the orchestras of Dallas, Detroit and Milwaukee, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, among others. Tyzik made his UK debut with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in June 2010.

A native of Hyde Park, NY, Tyzik began his life in music at age nine playing the cornet. He studied both classical and jazz throughout high school and went on to earn both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied composition/arranging with Radio City Music Hall's Ray Wright and jazz studies with the great band leader Chuck Mangione.

An accomplished composer and arranger, Tyzik has written over 160 works for orchestra, including a trombone concerto commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts and performed at Carnegie Hall. His newest commission, a timpani concerto, was premiered by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in January 2010.

His compositions and arrangements have been recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic, Erich Kunzel and the Cincinnati Pops, Doc Severinsen and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, Winnipeg Symphony, Summit Brass and the Eastman Wind Ensemble.

Tyzik has produced a GRAMMY Award-winning album, *The Tonight Show Band with Doc Severinsen, Vol. 1*. In May 2007, harmonia mundi released his recording conducting works by Gershwin with pianist Jon Nakamatsu and the Rochester Philharmonic which reached No. 3 on the Billboard classical chart. He has also produced and composed theme music for many of the major television networks and released six of his own albums.

Tyzik lives in Rochester, New York, with his wife Jill. For more information, please visit [www.jefftyzik.com](http://www.jefftyzik.com).

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