

Jeri Lynne Johnson

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO	MA in Music Theory - 2005
Benjamin E. Mays Fellow	
WELLESLEY COLLEGE	BA in Music - 1993
	BA in Religion - 1993

Awards include:

Andrew W. Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellow

Anne Louise Barrett Fellow

Billings Academic Award for Excellence in the Study of Music

CURRENT POSITION

Founder and Artistic Director Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, 2008 - present

Programming for Black Pearl over the years has included a mixture of standard repertoire from recognizable composers such as Beethoven (Symphonies, 2,3,5,6,7,8,9), Schubert (Symphonies 5 and 8) Brahms (Symphonies 2, 3, "Tragic" Overture), Mozart (various symphonies, divertimenti, concerti), Bach (Orchestral Suite No. 3, Brandenburg Concerto 3) Dvorak (Symphonies 7 and 9), and Stravinsky ("Dumbarton Oaks", "Ragtime", Octet) alongside newer and/or less familiar works by women and composers of color such as Florence Price, Jessie Montgomery, Julia Perry, Dr. George Walker, Chevalier de Saint George, Aldemaro Romero, Ignatius Sancho, Silvestre Revueltas, Valerie Coleman, Anna Clyne, Adolphus Hailstork, among others.

PREVIOUS CONDUCTING POSITIONS

Music Director, Settlement Music School, Trowbridge Chamber Orchestra, 2011 - 2016

Cover Conductor, Delaware Symphony Orchestra, 2010-2011

Assistant Conductor, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, 2000-2005

Principal Conductor, University of Chicago Undergraduate Composers, 1997-2000

Music Director, University of Chicago Chamber Orchestra, 1999-2001

Assistant Conductor, Pocket Opera of Chicago, 1999-2000

Assistant Conductor, Contemporary Chamber Players (Chicago), 1999-2000

Music Director, Hyde Park Youth Symphony (Chicago), 1998-2000

GUEST CONDUCTING - ORCHESTRAL

Houston Symphony Orchestra

New World Symphony

Charlotte Symphony

Los Angeles Philharmonic

University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music

Cleveland Institute of Music

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Baltimore Symphony

Norwegian Radio Symphony Orchestra

National Philharmonic

Louisiana Philharmonic
Manitoba Chamber Orchestra
Oakland Symphony
Omaha Symphony
Indianapolis Symphony
Symphony Nova Scotia
São Paulo Municipal Symphony Orchestra
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Hartford Symphony Orchestra
La Orquesta Filarmónica de la UNAM (OFUNAM)
River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (ROCO)
New England Music Center
Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra
The Philadelphia Orchestra
Chicago Sinfonietta
Rodney Mack Philadelphia Big Brass
Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture Contemporary Ensemble
Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music
Colorado Symphony Orchestra
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (UK)
Weimar Staatskapelle (Germany)
Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia
Orchestra Society of Philadelphia
University of Chicago New Music Ensemble,
Contemporary Chamber Players (Chicago)

GUEST CONDUCTING -OPERA

Harris Theater, Chicago, 2025 Joplin, arr. Montgomery/Norpoth, "Treemonisha" (US Premiere)
Opera Memphis, 2024, Puccini, "La Boheme"
Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, 2023 Mozart, "Cosi Fan Tutte"
The Sante Fe Opera, 2022 Chandler Carter "This Little Light of Mine" (World Premiere)
Florida Grand Opera, 2022 Handel, "Agrippina"
Chicago Opera Theatre, 2022 Erollyn Wallen, "Quamino's Map" (World Premiere)
New Orleans Opera, 2022 Tom Cipullo, "Josephine"
Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts, 2017 Toshi Reagon, "Parable of the Sower"
Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company (Chicago), 2001 "Princess Ida"
Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company (Chicago), 2000 "HMS Pinafore"
Pocket Opera of Chicago, 1999 John Eaton, "Gulliver's Travels" (World Premiere)

SPECIAL EVENTS

The 45th Annual Kennedy Center Honors - Tania Leon, "Stride"
Jay-Z at Carnegie Hall
Solange Knowles "Eldorado Ballroom"
Space X, Polaris Dawn, El Sistema USA "A Musician's Guide to Reaching for the Stars"

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and EDUCATION CONCERTS

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Ravinia Festival
National Symphony Orchestra
New England Music Center
Kinhaven Music School

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

BLACK PEARL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, PHILADELPHIA
FOUNDER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
2008-PRESENT

I established Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra as a model for the 21st century orchestra: a world-class music ensemble that makes a visible commitment to cultural diversity at every level of the organization and uses innovative community engagement activities and artistic collaborations with some of the city's most prominent cultural institutions to attract new audiences to classical music. Black Pearl's mission is to transform the purpose of orchestra from a gatekeeper of an artistic product into a facilitator of the creative process for the community through innovative programming, authentic engagement and world-class music making.

Accomplishments include

- **Securing over \$4.5M in corporate, government, private foundation, and individual contributions.**
- Designing compelling artistic projects and drafting successful federal grant applications that have received 11 National Endowment for the Arts grants.
- Conceiving and designing three innovative community engagement projects that each received a prestigious Knight Arts Challenge grant.
- Developing an organizational brand that attracts an age, socio-economic and culturally- diverse audience. Black Pearl concert audiences are 60% African-American and Latino- a unique audience demographic among classical music organizations not only in Philadelphia, but in the nation. BPCO audiences are also age and income diverse as 50% of our audience under the age of 50 and 34% report an annual income below \$50,000, 36% report an annual family income between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and 28% over \$100,000.
- Developing and sustaining collaborations and partnerships with leading Philadelphia cultural institutions including the Free Library of Philadelphia, Opera Philadelphia, WHYY, the Barnes Foundation, Ensemble Arts Philly, and Philadanco! that combine classical music with poetry, literature, visual arts, and technology.
- Representing Black Pearl for numerous press briefings, television and radio interviews, and national conferences including the 2021 Dallas Symphony Orchestra Women in Classical Music Symposium, 2018 Shift Festival at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and at the 2014 and 2018 League of American Orchestras annual conferences.

DEI ARTS CONSULTING
FOUNDER and PRINCIPAL
2015-2024

DEI Arts Consulting was a consulting and advisory service offered through Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra. DEI Arts Consulting was created to distill the insights, lessons learned and proven methods of Black Pearl to help leverage programming, policies and personnel to create a culture of belonging within organizations and build bridges within and between communities. Clients included:

- The U.S. Air Force Band
- An international cruise line based in Florida
- Numerous mid-range regional orchestras across the USA
- A large botanic garden in Delaware

SETTLEMENT MUSIC SCHOOL

Trowbridge Chamber Orchestra

2011-2016

- Developed Trowbridge into the flagship ensemble of Settlement Music School in Philadelphia
- Increased enrollment for the ensemble and expanded the repertoire to include composers of African- and Latin descent.
- Raised the profile of the ensemble by securing performances at important civic functions like the Mayor Inauguration and prestigious venues like the Barnes Foundation.
- Created musical mentorship opportunities with professional musicians to enhance their professional development

DREXEL UNIVERSITY

GUEST LECTURER

2010-2011

Lectured in arts entrepreneurship at the graduate Arts Administration program at the Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

LECTURER

1998-1999

- Designed the curriculum and practical exercises and taught a year -long course in undergraduate music theory for undergraduate non-music majors.
- Created an extensive and thorough music theory and keyboard skills curriculum for undergraduate music majors designed using practical music making to complement and illustrate the classroom lectures

INTERIM VP, ARTISTIC PLANNING, THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA, 1997

In preparation for the 1997-1998 season after the 64-day orchestra strike in 1996, I oversaw the department of artistic planning in advance of the arrival of the incoming new VP of Artistic Planning. My accomplishments include:

- Restored order to the orchestra's main roster and programming schedule
- Rescheduled guest artists and renegotiated guest artist contracts
- Finalized new orchestra member contracts within the terms of the settlement

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Microsoft Corporation Keynote 2025

Taylor Wessing Annual Partner Summit Keynote 2024

Strathmore Performing Arts Center Annual Board Meeting, Keynote 2021

Assoc. for the Advancement of International Education Global Conference Keynote 2021

Boston Consulting Group Partner Conference Keynote 2020

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Philadelphia Award- Trustee - 2019 - present

Philanthropi Charitable - Board Member, 2019 - 2025

National Endowment for the Arts - Grant Review Panel - various 2015-2021

Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance - Board Member, Executive Committee, 2014-2020

Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation - Board Member, Board President - 2014-2020

Einstein Healthcare Network - Board of Overseers, 2016-2019

Mayor's Cultural Advisory Committee - 2017-2019

Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia - Board Member, 2014-2020

Philadelphia Music Alliance- Advisory Board, 2014-2016

The Recording Academy- Philadelphia Chapter - Board Member, Executive Committee, 2011-2018

AWARDS

2020 Drexel University Institute of Women's Leadership Woman One Award

2012 Women's Opportunities Resource Center IMPACT Awardee

2011 Woman of Distinction, Philadelphia Business Journal

2010 Philly 360 Creative Ambassador, Visit Philadelphia

2010 "Share the Heritage" Award, Philadelphia Multicultural Affairs Congress

2010 Kaki Marshall Arts and Community Award

2009 Transformation Award, Leeway Foundation

AFFILIATIONS

The Assemblies, Member

League of American Orchestras, Member

British American Project Fellow