**BIOGRAPHY**

Alexander Frey's international career as conductor, organist, pianist, harpsichordist and recording artist has taken him all over the globe with performances in the music capitals of Europe, North and South America, Asia and Africa. A Top 10 *Billboard Classical Music Chart@* Artist (2005) as both conductor and pianist, he performs every year with symphony orchestras and as soloist throughout the world, as well as in many international festivals. In addition to his work as pianist and organist, Frey is in great demand as one of the world's most versatile conductors, and enjoys great success in the concert hall and opera house, and in the music of Hollywood and Broadway. Leonard Bernstein referred to him as "a wonderful spirit".

Alexander Frey was Principal Conductor of the Rome Philharmonic Orchestra from 1996-2002, and during that time was the only American music director of an Italian symphony orchestra. Frey was appointed conductor of the Bohemia Symphony Orchestra (a few years later, the name was changed to the Stern Chamber Orchestra) in Prague, Czech Republic from 2000-2006. From 1992-1996, he was Music Director of Germany’s most renowned theater, the Berliner Ensemble, founded by Bertolt Brecht, where he collaborated with the celebrated stage director Peter Zadek. Frey was the first American to hold a position at the Berliner Ensemble, as well as being the theater’s first non-German Music Director; his historic predecessors include the composers Kurt Weill, Hanns Eisler and Paul Dessau. His many guest conducting appearances include performances on 5 continents with the Rio de Janeiro Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra dell’Arena di Verona, Sibelius Symphony Orchestra, Athens State Symphony Orchestra, State of Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Gulbenkian Orchestra (Lisbon), Seoul Royal Symphony Orchestra, Cairo Symphony Orchestra, Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra, and Philharmonia Orchestra of Berlin, Collegium Symphonium Veneto (Padua) among many others. Alexander Frey has also been Music Director for major productions at the Edinburgh International Festival (where he was awarded the festival's Critics' Prize), the Wiener Festwochen (Theater an der Wien, Vienna), Venice Festival (Teatro La Fenice), Holland Festival, the Fifth European Festival and the Copenhagen Opera Festival, among others.

As pianist and organist, Alexander Frey has performed with many of the world’s great symphony orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Orchestra dell’Arena di Verona, Munich Symphony Orchestra, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra (ORF), Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin (Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra), Deutsches Sinfonie-Orchester, the Rome Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cairo Symphony Orchestra (Egypt), Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de México (State of Mexico Symphony Orchestra), Bohemia Symphony Orchestra (Prague), Orchester Filarmonica Italiana (Milan), the chamber orchestra of the Palacio de Bellas Artes (the opera house of Mexico City), the orchestra of the Teatro Regio di Torino (with whom he appeared as soloist in the 3 inaugural concerts opening Torino's newly restored opera house), Monterrey Symphony Orchestra (Mexico), among others, under such conductors as Claudio Abbado, John Mauceri, Michael Tilson Thomas.

He was the first organist ever to perform an entire symphony of Gustav Mahler as a solo work for organ. This historic achievement resulted in Mr. Frey's live performance of the organ transcription Gustav Mahler's Symphony #5 (transcribed by Jerry Kinsella) cited as one of seven performances listed as "the most important organ-related events of the 20th century" by *The American Organist* magazine. He frequently played recitals with the late Grammy award-winning tenor, Jerry Hadley, and has performed chamber music with violinist Ruggiero Ricci and the Vermeer Quartet, among others. He has performed duo concerts in Europe with American writer and *Prairie Home Companion* host Garrison Keillor.

A highly honored recording artist, Alexander Frey’s recording of Korngold’s *Between Two Worlds* was listed by *Gramophone Magazine* as one of the *250 Greatest Recordings of All Time*. In addition, he has received the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis (Germany's highest recording honor), Choice of the French Media Critics, Best Recording of the Year (*Fi Magazine*), Best Original Cast Recording of the Year-2005 (*Borders Music*), Favorite Record of the Year-2005 (*ArkivMusic*), the Bronze World Medal of the New York Festival, BBC Critics Choice, Record of the Month (*MusicWeb*, UK), Best Instrumental CD of the Month (*Galaxie Magazine*, Canada) and Best CD of the Month (*Best New Classics*). Frey's recordings can be found on the Koch International Classics, Decca, Sony, Deutsche Grammophon, Bach Guild, RCA Red Seal and Pool labels.

Alexander Frey studied piano in Chicago for 22 years with Gavin Williamson, one of the last direct links to 19th century pianism. He studied organ with Richard Webster and Edward Mondello, also in Chicago. He received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees (with honors) from the University of Michigan where he studied organ with Robert Glasgow, conducting with Gustav Meier and composition with William Albright and William Bolcom.