

RUSSELL GER

MASTER PRESENTER



“

Maestro Ger was a joy to watch. A born entertainer, he has enough energy to light Manhattan and the requisite charm to make every one of the 1200 members of the audience feel like he was speaking directly to them – a rare gift.

”

**PETER DANISH
BROADWAY WORLD, DEC 2023**

Maestro Ger is a distinguished presenter, whose specialty is vivifying classical music for modern audiences. His dynamic and engaging presentations have drawn repeat capacity crowds wherever he goes. Maestro Ger's enthusiasm is contagious, and his knowledge is encyclopedic.

Maestro Ger is an award winning Australian orchestral conductor based in Los Angeles. He has conducted extensively throughout his homeland, North America, and Europe, performing at such lauded venues as the Sydney Opera House, Los Angeles Hollywood Bowl, Chicago Ravinia Festival, Boston Symphony Hall, New York Lincoln Center, Toronto Roy Thomson Hall, and more. He is Music Director of the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra in the Hudson Valley, New York, where he has tripled audience attendance during his tenure. Maestro Ger has also recorded and produced commercials for such corporate giants as Fenty Beauty and been emcee and keynote speaker for the likes of Pfizer.



TESTIMONIALS



Nicole Peragine
Associate Dean for Programs
Music Conservatory of Westchester
914-761-3900



“Ever present in our lives, musicians, orators, and influencers are just a click away. With access to so many talented, brilliant people, why should we pay attention to Russell Ger? Because it is foolish not to. It is really just that simple. His ability to inspire both the musicians he is leading and the audiences who attend his performances is nothing short of special.

With both music and the spoken word, Russell is a magical storyteller. The resulting connection to the audience is instantaneous and genuine. Having invited him to speak at my institution, I’ve had the pleasure of watching this first hand. An entire community of adults - who were not necessarily musicians - were entirely captivated by his lecture. It was a true testament to his skills in audience engagement.

Time and time again, I have been impressed by Russell’s depth of knowledge of the orchestral repertoire and his versatility as a conductor. His ability to program an orchestral season is truly impressive. Creative and thoughtful, there is a thread connecting each work - even when the connection is not outwardly obviously. This ability to find connection is seemingly limitless. Naturally, every rehearsal becomes an education in and of itself. I find myself renewed after each series where I have the privilege of learning from Russell. My connection to the music becomes electrified and it is through those sparks of inspiration that my experience becomes that much more human. What an immense gift.”

TESTIMONIALS CONT.



Paul Duffy
CEO
Compass Eight Boston
617-997-1690
PCDuffy@gmail.com

“Russell Ger lights the room on fire. His intelligence, wit and musicality are inspiring, his passion contagious. Whether speaking to and performing for an audience of neophytes or of experts, Maestro Ger excels in engaging every member of the audience. His sessions are stimulating, energizing and informative. His charm knows no bounds.

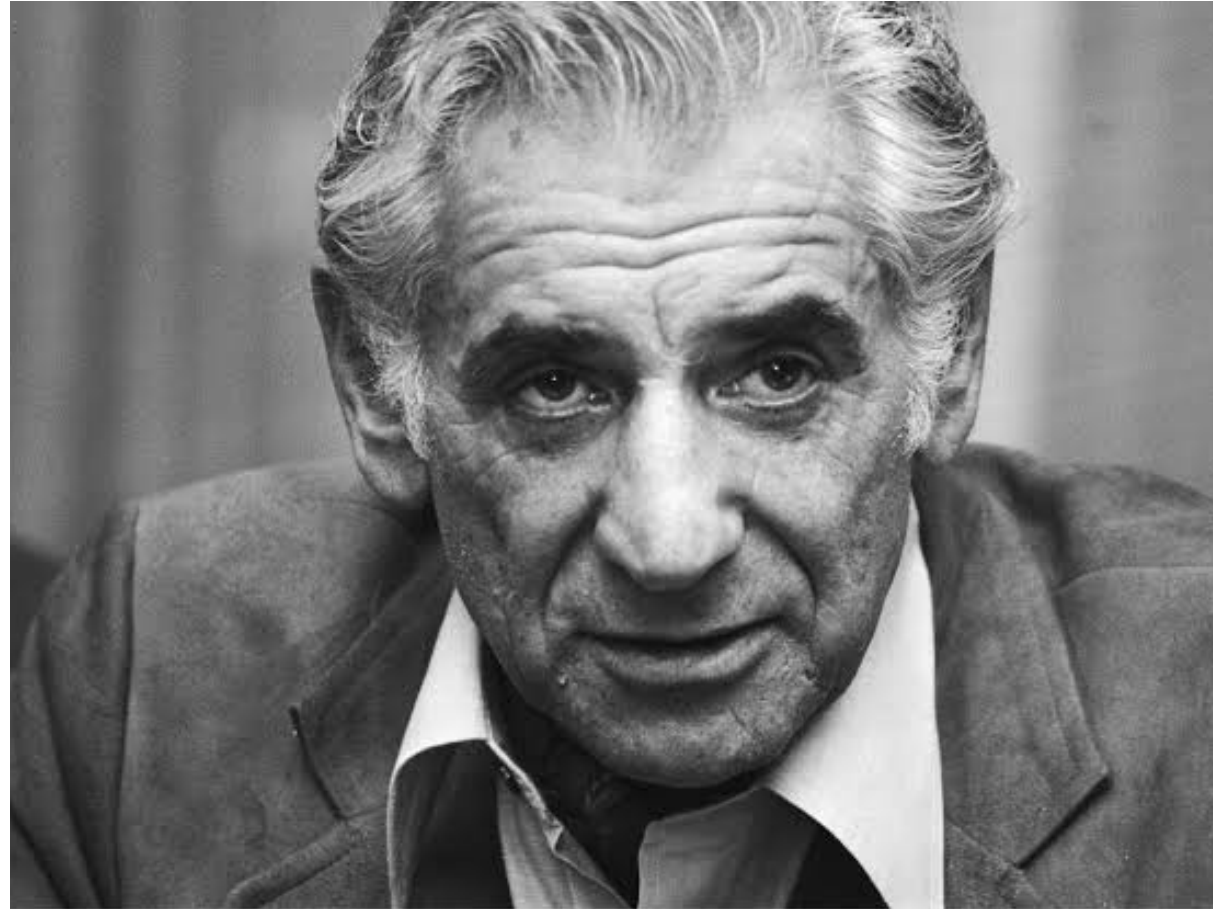
Russell has lectured and performed for a number of my senior living clients in a variety of settings, both in-person and virtual. No client or audience has failed to demand his frequent return. He is generous with his knowledge and his time and displays an unflinching courtesy and warmth with every audience. From Bach to Bernstein and every note in between, Russell Ger provides an intelligent escape in to a world of musical scholarship which he so thoroughly and passionately inhabits. I can recommend him wholeheartedly and without reservation.”



Susan Tovsky
Resident Program Manager
Orchard Cove
781-821-3170

“Russell Ger has been wowing our community at Orchard Cove for several years with lectures that are always engaging, informative and incredibly entertaining. Russell's deep knowledge and love of music combined with a presentation style that is filled with energy, humor and compelling content makes him one of our most requested presenters.”

TOP TEN PRESENTATIONS



Leonard Bernstein: The Man Who Shaped Music in America

Lenny, as he was affectionately known, came to embody the very idea of music itself for most Americans in the middle of the twentieth century. Composer, pianist, conductor, intellectual, educator, Bernstein was the true renaissance man. His knowledge was immense, his enthusiasm unbounded, his charisma off the charts, and his fame colossal. So why was he so tortured? Come and explore the man behind the music, and the music that made the man. Maestro Russell Ger is sure to ignite a fire of curiosity and redouble your appreciation for one of the most intriguing characters ever to grace American artistic life.

Whirlwind Tour of Music History: 1,000 years in 60 minutes!

Have you ever wondered what people mean when they talk about Romantic or Baroque music? Did Mozart and Tchaikovsky ever have brunch together? Making sense of music history can sometimes seem as esoteric as palaeontology. But with Maestro Russell Ger as your guide, you will see and hear the whole past millennium unfold itself before you in a matter of mere minutes. And as it flashes past, you will come to understand how this whole intricate puzzle is composed.



Dancing with the Devil: Shostakovich and Stalin

In 1937, Dmitri Shostakovich premiered his Fifth Symphony to thunderous acclaim. But it had a disconcerting subtitle: 'A Soviet Artist's Response to Just Criticism.' Your rightful reaction should be: What on earth does that mean? Come and discover the thrilling tale of Stalin's intimidation and coercion of one of Russia's greatest artists. And how Shostakovich defiantly dealt with this menace.



Trouble & Triumph in Beethoven's Ninth

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony contains one of the most famous passages of music ever composed: the Ode to Joy. But what is a giant choir doing in the middle of a symphony? Isn't a symphony just for instruments? What's with the singing? Come and explore the winding path that ultimately led to this groundbreaking stroke of genius. With Maestro Russell Ger as your tour guide, you will come to understand what really makes this extraordinary work so beloved the world over.

A Deep Dive into Beethoven Five

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is regarded as one of the greatest ever composed. But the universally recognized opening is not the cause of this high esteem. Rather, it is the unfailingly moving story it tells of confronting struggle and, after great effort, emerging triumphant. Come and discover why this master work is among the most astonishing creations ever of the human mind.

PRESENTATIONS CONT.



Who's Afraid of the Big, Bad Wolf: A Crash Course in Wagner

It has been said that Wagner lovers are the SEAL-Team-6 of opera goers. This is because the perception of Wagner is of being very long and intimidating. But this need not be the case! There is extraordinary gentleness and beauty to be found, as well as mind blowing feats of genius. So, with Maestro Russell Ger as your tour guide, come and dive in without fear into the wide world of Wagner.

The Maestro Mystique: Deconstructing Conducting

Conductors have been very much in the zeitgeist with movies like Cate Blanchett's 'Tár' and Bradley Cooper's 'Maestro' getting a lot of attention. But why is a conductor needed? Most people have seen a conductor waving wildly at the orchestra while the musicians do all the hard work of making the sound. Can't professionals just count to play together? What's with the histrionics? In this dynamic multi-media presentation, Maestro Russell Ger delves into the fascinating world of conducting and its surprising array of skills and techniques. Come and discover a whole new world and answer the burning question: What Does a Conductor Actually Do?



Inverting the Arc: Mahler's Symphony No. 6

Mahler's Sixth Symphony is one of edifying and cathartic tragedy. And while the struggle may end in defeat it still manages to profoundly uplift its audience. Like all of Mahler's symphonies, it is filled with musical codes and allusions that reveal an immensely rich tapestry of storytelling genius. Come and explore this master work with Maestro Russell Ger and discover why it is among the most gripping musical works ever composed.



The Fantastic Voyage: Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique

In 1830, the fiery Frenchman, Hector Berlioz composed a piece that shocked the world. The so-called symphony lurched madly from manic delirium to plaintive melancholy, from tranquillity to turbulence, and most of all it had a story! A symphony that told a specific and explicit story was unheard of. Blazing a trail that would influence composers for the rest of time, Berlioz was a true revolutionary. With Maestro Russell Ger as your tour-guide, come and explore the fascinating true story of art-imitating-life that inspired this wild ride.

Song of Thanksgiving: Beethoven String Quartet in A-minor, Op. 132

Beethoven spent much of his life suffering from various severe illnesses. But this time was different. Normally, he just pushed through the pain, but halfway through his latest string quartet he went to bed and lay there fully expecting to die. But a miracle happened: he got better. And so, he interpolated into the heart of this quartet a 17 minute hymn of gratitude, titled A Holy Song of Thanksgiving. Come and explore this beautiful, stirring, and uplifting work with Maestro Russell Ger.

RUSSELL GER

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