

# Biography

## PETER RUBARDT, conductor

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Now in his fifteenth season as Music Director of the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra, PETER RUBARDT continues to inspire artistic excellence and to create innovative programs for the Pensacola community. During his tenure with the PSO, Peter Rubardt is credited with significantly raising the orchestra's artistic level, and with serving the Pensacola community by initiating pops, chamber orchestra, and family concerts. He played a central role in leading the successful renovation of the historic Pensacola Saenger Theatre, giving the orchestra increased visibility and vitality. Rubardt's current season includes debuts with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and Japan's Yamagata Orchestra, as well as a return to Japan's Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra, where he previously performed for the Imperial Highness Princess Hitachi of Japan. In addition, this season he will return to the pit of the Saenger Theatre for performances of Verdi's *Rigoletto* with the Pensacola Opera.

Prior to his appointment in Pensacola, Peter Rubardt served four seasons as the Associate Conductor of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, which followed three seasons as Resident Conductor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. He conducted numerous subscription and Pops performances, educational programs and regional tours with both orchestras, and led the New Jersey in a highly praised evening of operatic favorites at Ireland's Adare Festival. He has also conducted the Utah Symphony, Louisiana, Rochester, and Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestras, The Louisville Orchestra, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, The Richmond Symphony, Japan's Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra, Century Orchestra Osaka, Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra and Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra and Nova Filarmonia Portuguese, with which he toured Portugal several times, as well as the orchestras of Acadiana, Anchorage, Annapolis, Bangor, Lubbock, Peoria, Portland, Quad Cities, Rogue, Valley, South Dakota, Southwest Florida, Spokane, and Youngstown. He has also conducted *The Nutcracker* for Kaleidoscope & Ballet Pensacola and Northwest Florida Ballet. From 1991-1996, he served as Music Director of the Rutgers Symphony; during the 2002-2003 season, he was Principal Guest Conductor of Pensacola Opera.

A native of Berkeley, California, Peter Rubardt holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting from The Juilliard School, where he was the recipient of the Bruno Walter fellowship. A Fulbright scholar in 1984, he studied piano and conducting at the Vienna Academy of Music, and pursued further studies at the Tanglewood Music Center and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute. He has participated in the masterclasses of Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, André Previn and Herbert Blomstedt, and his major teachers have included Otto-Werner Mueller, Sixten Ehrling, Michael Senturia and David Lawton. He is listed in *Who's Who in America*. In 2005 he was selected by the American Symphony Orchestra League to perform in the National Conductor Preview with the Jacksonville Symphony.

Peter Rubardt has served on the faculties of The Juilliard School, Rutgers University, and the State University of New York at Purchase. He has received awards and degrees in music from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the University of California at Berkeley. Mr. Rubardt has recorded for Pantheon Records International. He resides in Pensacola with his wife Hedi Salanki, a professor of music at the University of West Florida, and their two children.

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