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## Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra Selects New Music Director

*Conductor Ernesto Estigarribia to take the podium October 8 for first performance of 104<sup>th</sup> season*

Sheboygan, WI (June 2, 2022) – The Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra, which concluded a successful return season post-COVID several weeks ago, is excited to announce Ernesto Estigarribia as its next Music Director.

Estigarribia was unveiled as the new director last night at the Weill Center during a public event attended by symphony musicians, donors, elected officials and symphony patrons.

After conducting the symphony's March concert, Estigarribia received a standing ovation and stellar marks for his conducting skills, energy and engaging personality by musicians, audience members and the board of directors.

"We are overwhelmingly excited to have Maestro Estigarribia as the esteemed conductor of the SSO," said Kathie Norman, president of the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors. "We collected feedback from musicians and audience members after the candidate visits, and he was the obvious choice. Musicians and audience members were unanimous in their effusive praise for what he will bring to the SSO."



Estigarribia brings extensive conducting experience, including serving as Associate Conductor of the Quad City Symphony, Music Director of the Quad City Symphony Youth Ensembles, and Director of Orchestral Activities at Augustana College. He also has previous experience guest conducting numerous orchestras in North and South America. He holds master's and doctoral music degrees from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree in music from Pittsburg State University.

He was one of four finalists who guest conducted during the season, chosen from a pool of 107 total applicants hailing from 14 countries. The announcement completes an extensive search process that was delayed for a year by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During his interviews, Estigarribia spoke of his interest in programming collaborative performance experiences with other community groups, including in creating authentic connections with Latino populations. The SSO's vision is to create innovative, inspirational and inclusive musical experiences that reach a broad, diverse audience groups in the Sheboygan area.

"I'm so excited to lead the Sheboygan Symphony into the next chapter of its already rich history," Estigarribia said. "The organization is mission-driven and has a clear vision. I am thrilled to be the Music Director of this orchestra of incredibly fine musicians."

Estigarribia will take the podium for the SSO's first concert of the 104th season on October 8. Guest pianist Michael Mizrahi will perform Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor, and Estigarribia will choose the remaining pieces on the program in the coming weeks.

The Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1918, is the longest continually active orchestra in the state of Wisconsin. Over the span of more than a century, extraordinary musical experiences have evolved into a legacy of old and new traditions. As a community-based professional orchestra, most SSO musicians call Sheboygan County home, but the ensemble brings together musicians from all over Wisconsin. The SSO holds multiple regular season performances, a yearly holiday concert and an annual children's concert for grade school students. For more information go to <https://sheboygansymphony.org/>

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*Editor's Note: Ernesto Estigarribia's full biography and photo are included. He is available for phone or video interviews upon request.*