

The Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation

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Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation Awards \$30,000 in Grants to Support Associate Conductor Chair at The Akron Symphony for Christopher James Lees, the Assistant Conductor Chair for Mathew Kraemer at the Virginia Symphony and the Assistant Conductor Chair at Bronx Opera for Elizabeth Scott and Eric Kramer in it's Sixth Year of Grants

Each Company receives \$7,500 and \$2,500 is granted directly to each Emerging Conductor for career development.

The Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation has awarded three \$10,000 grants to The Akron Symphony, in support of associate conductor Christopher James Lees, the Virginia Symphony in support of assistant conductor Mathew Kraemer and to the Bronx Opera, for assistant conductors Elizabeth Scott and Eric Kramer for the upcoming 2008-09 season. The assistant conductors will be known for the 2008-09 season as holding the Bruno Walter Conductor's Chair. This is the sixth year of awarding Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation Emerging Conductor Chair awards.

The purpose of this annual program is to highlight the importance of assistant conductor positions as essential mentoring and learning experiences for emerging conductors.

In this time when potential opportunities for emerging conductors may be diminishing, the Foundation believes it is important to take a leadership role in assisting institutions and assistant conductors by highlighting the importance of these positions to the training and careers of our future orchestral leadership. The Foundation also wishes to encourage the development of training and mentoring programs for assistant conductors. These grants are intended to remind musicians and the general public of the invaluable contribution Maestro Walter made during his lifetime to opera, symphonic music and the training of young conductors.

The Bruno Walter Assistant Conductor Chair program carries an award of \$7,500 to the symphony orchestra or opera company. In addition, the Bruno Walter Career Development Grant of \$2,500 is made to the emerging conductor for projects that furthers his or her career, such as attendance at a conductor training session or other mentoring/career development program.

This year, over 24 applicants competed for the awards. Applications were submitted by a wide range of large and small symphony orchestras and opera companies and were reviewed by a panel that consisted of the Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation trustees, plus Patrick Smith, well-known music writer and Jesse Rosen, Executive Vice President and Managing Director of the League of American Symphonies.

Guidelines and applications for the 2009-10 season awards will be available by December 1, 2008, for an application submission deadline of February 28, 2009. Information is at www.brunowalter.org.