

**Full Biography for Conductor Harold Rosenbaum**  
**<http://www.haroldrosenbaum.com/>**

**Website --**

**Long Bio:**

Recognized among the premier current interpreters of choral music, conductor Harold Rosenbaum is a singular force in vocal ensemble performance. The award-winning founder and conductor of distinguished professional choir The New York Virtuoso Singers and celebrated volunteer choir The Canticum Novum Singers, Rosenbaum attracts the finest choral talent from New York City and around the country to his world-class productions. Inspiring singers and audiences alike with gripping interpretations of both contemporary and classical compositions, he brings a profound wealth of technical ability and expertise to the creation of rich musical experiences. The New Yorker—lauding The New York Virtuoso Singers—reported, "Mr. Rosenbaum's sixteen singers are virtuosi indeed, masters in a contemporary repertory that, but for them, we would seldom hear." The New York Times praised him as "an astute programmer with an ear for the unusual" and commended The New York Virtuoso Singers for "an exquisitely blended sound," while The ASCAP Foundation writes, "Harold Rosenbaum has earned a significant place in the music life of New York and beyond as one of the most accomplished, versatile and critically-acclaimed choral conductors of our time."

In 1973 Rosenbaum established The Canticum Novum Singers, one of New York City's premiere volunteer choirs. In its 45-year history CNS has performed close to 600 concerts across Europe and the Americas. The New York Times commended The Canticum Novum Singers as an "elite chorus." From the talented roster of amateur singers who have sung with CNS, well over 100 have become professional choristers, soloists, conductors, and composers. CNS has premiered over 60 compositions, including works by Handel, J.C. Bach, Fauré, Bruckner, Harbison, Berio, Schnittke, Rorem, Schickele, Sierra, and Benjamin.

In pursuit of his dream to conduct the best choral compositions of the 20th century and after 15 years of resounding success with The Canticum Novum Singers, Rosenbaum founded a professional choir, The New York Virtuoso Singers, in 1988. Now in its 32nd season, NYVS performs regularly with leading orchestras and at eminent institutions such as The Tanglewood Music Festival and The Juilliard School. It has premiered close to 500 works by renowned contemporary composers such as Berio, Harbison, Henze, Andriessen, Ran, Perle, Krenek, Musgrave, Harvey, Pärt, and Imbrie, and by 50 recent winners of The ASCAP Foundation Choral Commissioning Program.

The choirs have performed many times on Lincoln Center's Great Performers Series and in concerts with notables including James Galway, Tony Bennett, Licia Albanese, Marianne Faithful, Leonard Slatkin, and The Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society. Rosenbaum has appeared countless times on radio and TV, including an appearance on The David Letterman Show for the Millennium New Year's Eve celebrations and a Christmas episode of CBS TV's 48 Hours, 'The Mystery of the Nativity.'

In addition to his work with CNS and NYVS, Rosenbaum is also a much sought-after guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, funding panelist, coach, lecturer, and consultant. He has led various American choirs on 31 choral tours of Europe, Canada and Costa Rica. He has worked with many of the best ensembles and organizations in the world. In the United States alone, Rosenbaum collaborates frequently with leading orchestras and conductors such as The New York Philharmonic with James Conlon, an astonishing 59 times with The Brooklyn Philharmonic and Robert Spano, Lukas Foss, Dennis Russell Davies, Michael Christie, and Grant Llewellyn, The American Symphony Orchestra with Leon Botstein, The American Composers Orchestra with Steven Sloane, The Riverside Symphony with George Rothman, The Orchestra of St. Luke's with Sir Charles Mackerras and Robert Spano, Concerto Köln, The Bard Festival Orchestra, The Westchester Symphony Orchestra, and The Juilliard Orchestra. In addition, he has collaborated with The Paul Taylor Dance Company, Continuum, P.D.Q. Bach (in Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall), The Mark Morris Dance Group, Bang on a Can, The Glyndebourne Opera Company, S.E.M. Ensemble, Da Capo Chamber Players, The New York Youth Symphony, The Prototype Festival, Opera Dolce, and The Bel Canto Opera Company.

Over the years, Rosenbaum has collaborated with hundreds of notable contemporary composers, with highlights including concerts with legendary, Oscar-winning film composer Ennio Morricone and The Roma Sinfonietta in the General Assembly of the United Nations and at Radio City. Prominent among his numerous collaborators are David Del Tredici, Stephen Schwartz, John Harbison, George Perle, William Schuman, Milton Babbitt, John Corigliano, John Adams, Mark Adamo, Osvaldo Golijov, Ned Rorem, Charles Wuorinen, Peter Schickele, Augusta Read Thomas, David Lang, Michael Gordon, Julia Wolfe, David Felder, George Tsontakis, Shulamit Ran, Andrew Imbrie, Tan Dunn, Earl Brown, and Tristan Keuris. He has also worked with many actors - including Tony Randall, F. Murray Abraham, Werner Klemperer and Michael York - and celebrated stage directors Jonathan Miller and François Girard. In tours of Europe, Canada and Central America Rosenbaum has conducted over 100 concerts, working with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, L'Orchestre d'Europe, the New Prague Collegium, Dohnanyi Budafok Orchestra, the Madeira Bach Festival Orchestra, and choirs from the USA and France. International festival appearances include The Ludlow Festival and the Cheltenham Fringe Festival in England, The Madeira Bach Festival in Portugal, and The Siracusa Festival in Italy.

Rosenbaum has a great passion for unique and challenging projects. His recent enterprises include such features as a performance of Mozart's Requiem in the summer of 2010 as part of a festival sponsored by the Varna Music Academy in Israel. He conducted choral music of William Schuman, founder of The Juilliard School of Music, with The New York Virtuoso Singers at Juilliard in the fall of 2010. In 2012 he conducted the Verdi Requiem in Italy and lead The New York Virtuoso Singers on a tour of Denmark and Sweden. In the spring of 2013 he returned to Juilliard to conduct a vocal ensemble at the memorial concert for Elliott Carter, while in the summer of 2014 he led an ambitious European project, training American singers to join others from around the world in a performance of Haydn's Creation in St. Stephen's - Haydn's church in Vienna.

Beyond his numerous professional commitments, Rosenbaum shares his skill and passion as an active educator. He is Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, where he directed the choirs and headed the graduate program in choral conducting. Previously, he taught at the Juilliard School, Queens College, and Adelphi University. His dedication and output are remarkable; during one season, he was a full-time professor at both the University at Buffalo and Queens College while conducting five non-university choirs. As part of his continuing support and mentorship of aspiring conductors, he founded The Harold Rosenbaum Choral Conducting Institute, an annual program of choral conducting workshops at Columbia University, and NYU.

Rosenbaum's untiring devotion to music has spurred many other ambitious projects. In 2015 he created ChoralFest USA—A Celebration of the Diversity of Choral Music in America, an annual marathon concert dedicated to showcasing talented choirs from the New York City area and beyond. He also shares his years of expertise in contemporary choral interpretation and performance by editing the *Harold Rosenbaum Choral Series* with G. Schirmer Publishing and a contemporary choral music series called *New Voices* published by Peermusic Classical. With these companies, he is responsible for the publication of choral pieces by nearly 20 composers including Milton Babbitt and Samuel Barber. His passion for contemporary choral works has generated vibrant connections in the musical community, and he is widely known for his encouragement and patronage of new American composers. He has personally commissioned music from 110 composers and conducted approximately 550 world premieres including works by such greats as Ravel, Schoenberg, Dallapiccola, Schnittke, Carter, Henze, Berio, Perle, Harbison, Corigliano, Lang, Zwilich, Adamo, Ran, Musgrave, Bolcom, Danielpour, Thomas, Wyner, Tower, and Kernis. As founder of Virtuoso Choral Recordings, he partners with Adam Abeshouse Productions and 4Tay Records to record the music of living composers. He has recorded contemporary choral music on 45 albums for numerous labels including SONY Classical.

To fulfill his lifelong passion of bringing together choral singers from diverse backgrounds and skill levels, Rosenbaum has founded The Canticum Novum Festival Choir, Westchester Oratorio Society, Long Island Jewish Choral Society, and Westchester Jewish Choral Society. As conductor of eight university choirs, seven church choirs, ten synagogue choirs, two youth choirs, and a senior adult choir, he has conducted approximately 1,750 concerts. Many of his efforts are collaborative, including events such as a seven-choir combined performance of the Verdi Requiem at Carnegie Hall and a production of Haydn's *Creation* with the Queens College Preparatory Choir, Transfiguration Lutheran Church Choir of Harlem, and Westchester Jewish Choral Society. For his accomplishment and inter-religious outreach Rosenbaum was awarded the Most Remarkable Ecumenical Achievement Award by The New York Times.

Rosenbaum has received numerous honors throughout his career, including the 2008 American Composer Alliance Laurel Leaf Award for "distinguished achievement in fostering and encouraging the performance of new American works," ASCAP's 2010 Victor Herbert Award for Distinguished Service to American Music "in recognition of his contribution to the choral repertory and his service to American composers and their music," and the 2014 Ditson

Conductor's Award. He is also a four-time recipient of the ASCAP/Chorus American Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music and a winner of Chorus American's American Choral Work Performance Award.

A life-long resident of New York, Rosenbaum studied at Queens College (BA '72, MA '74). In 2011 he was recognized for his many achievements with an honorary doctorate from his alma mater. His first book on choral conducting, titled *A Practical Guide to Choral Conducting*, was released in the fall of 2017 by Routledge. He currently resides in Westchester County with his wife Edie.

**Mid Bio:**

Recognized among the premier current interpreters of choral music, critically acclaimed conductor Harold Rosenbaum is a singular force in vocal ensemble performance. The award-winning founder and conductor of distinguished professional choir The New York Virtuoso Singers and celebrated volunteer choir The Canticum Novum Singers, Rosenbaum attracts the finest choral talent from New York City and around the country to his world-class productions. Inspiring singers and audiences alike with gripping interpretations of both contemporary and classical compositions, he brings a profound wealth of technical ability and expertise to the creation of rich musical experiences. *The New Yorker*—lauding the New York Virtuoso Singers—reported, "Mr. Rosenbaum's sixteen singers are virtuosi indeed, masters in a contemporary repertory that, but for them, we would seldom hear," while *The New York Times* praised him as "an astute programmer with an ear for the unusual" and commended The New York Virtuoso Singers for "an exquisitely blended sound."

Throughout his career, Rosenbaum has conducted prolifically and enthusiastically, at one time directing eleven choirs concurrently. He has led American choirs on 31 choral tours of Europe, Canada and Costa Rica. He has worked with many of the best ensembles and organizations in the world, including such groups as the New York Philharmonic, the Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Bang on a Can, the American Symphony Orchestra, and the Juilliard Orchestra. Beyond his numerous professional commitments, Rosenbaum shares his skill and passion as an active educator. He is Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, where he directed the choirs and headed the graduate program in choral conducting. Previously, he taught at the Juilliard School, Queens College, and Adelphi University.

His untiring devotion to music has spurred many ambitious projects. In 2015 he created ChoralFest USA—A Celebration of the Diversity of Choral Music in America, an annual marathon concert dedicated to showcasing talented choirs from the New York City area and beyond. He also shares his years of expertise in contemporary choral interpretation and performance by editing the Harold Rosenbaum Choral Series with G. Schirmer Publishing and a contemporary choral music series called *New Voices* published by Peermusic Classical. His passion for contemporary choral works has generated vibrant connections in the musical community, and he is widely known for his encouragement and patronage of new American composers, frequently commissioning (over 100 composers) and performing new works (approximately 550

world premieres) by promising talent. As founder of The Harold Rosenbaum Choral Conducting Institute, he leads annual choral conducting workshops at Columbia University, NYU, and Buffalo State. As founder of Virtuoso Choral Recordings, he partners with 4Tay Records to record the music of living composers.

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### **Short Biography for Conductor Harold Rosenbaum Website**

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Recognized among the premier current interpreters of choral music, critically acclaimed conductor Harold Rosenbaum is a singular force in vocal ensemble performance. *The New Yorker*—lauding his all-professional choir The New York Virtuoso Singers—reported, "Mr. Rosenbaum's sixteen singers are virtuosi indeed, masters in a contemporary repertory that, but for them, we would seldom hear," while *The New York Times* praised him as "an astute programmer with an ear for the unusual" and commended The New York Virtuoso Singers for "an exquisitely blended sound." *The New York Times* further commended his all-volunteer choir The Canticum Novum Singers as an "elite chorus."

Rosenbaum has led American choirs on 31 choral tours of Europe, Canada and Costa Rica. He has worked with many of the best ensembles and organizations in the world, including such groups as the New York Philharmonic, the Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Bang on a Can, the American Symphony Orchestra, and the Juilliard Orchestra. Currently a faculty member of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, he has also taught at the Juilliard School, Queens College, and Adelphi University.

In 2015 he created ChoralFest USA—A Celebration of the Diversity of Choral Music in America, an annual marathon concert dedicated to showcasing talented choirs from the New York City area and beyond. He also edits The Harold Rosenbaum Choral Series with G. Schirmer Publishing and a contemporary choral music series called *New Voices* established by Peermusic Classical. He has commissioned 110 composers and has conducted approximately 550 world premieres. As founder of The Harold Rosenbaum Choral Conducting Institute, he leads annual choral

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Rosenbaum is the recipient of the 2008 American Composer Alliance Laurel Leaf Award, ASCAP's 2010 Victor Herbert Award, and the 2014 Ditson Conductor's Award. He is also a four-time recipient of the ASCAP/Chorus American Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music and a winner of Chorus American's American Choral Work Performance Award.

A life-long resident of New York, Rosenbaum studied at Queens College (BA '72, MA '74). In 2011 he was recognized for his many achievements with an honorary doctorate from his alma mater. He currently resides in Westchester County with his wife Edie.

### **Condensed Biography for Conductor Harold Rosenbaum**

**Website -- <http://www.haroldrosenbaum.com/>**

Recognized among the premier interpreters of choral music, Dr. Harold Rosenbaum is the founder of The New York Virtuoso Singers ("New York's outstanding concert choir" - NY Times). He is the recipient of many awards including Columbia University's Ditson Conductor's Award. He has conducted at Tanglewood, Juilliard, and in every major NYC Hall with choirs plus the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and has trained choirs for Charles Mackerras, Robert Spano, Lukas Foss, James Conlon, Ennio Morricone, and others. He founded The Harold Rosenbaum Choral Conducting Institute, ChoralFest USA, and Virtuoso Choral Recordings. His book, A Practical Guide to Choral Conducting, will be published this fall by Routledge. Dr. Rosenbaum's choirs appear on 44 commercial CDs. He has led choirs on 31 international tours and has conducted at many prestigious venues in Europe. He has collaborated with The New York Philharmonic, Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Bang on a Can, P.D.Q. Bach, American Symphony Orchestra, Juilliard Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic (59 times) and others. He has commissioned 110 composers and has committed to commissioning 10 more each year. Dr. Rosenbaum has conducted 540 world premieres. He is active as a guest conductor, clinician, and lecturer. Read more [haroldrosenbaum.com](http://www.haroldrosenbaum.com)

### **Press Quotes for Conductor Harold Rosenbaum**

**Website -- <http://www.haroldrosenbaum.com/>**

"Harold Rosenbaum is an astute programmer with an ear for the unusual.... The New York Virtuoso Singers produced an exquisitely blended sound." **Allan**

**Kozinn, The New York Times**

"Mr. Rosenbaum's sixteen singers are virtuosi indeed, masters in a contemporary repertory that, but for them, we would seldom hear. Ravel's *Trois Chansons* were poised and polished."

**Andrew Porter, The New Yorker**

"Late Saturday afternoon the amazing chamber choir the New York Virtuoso Singers, under the direction of Harold Rosenbaum, sang choral music by Gyorgy Ligeti, Krzysztof Penderecki, and four Americans....Ligeti's "*Lux aeterna*" (1966) is a 20th century classic, and it was sung with luminous rapture."

**Richard Dyer, The Boston Globe**

"It takes a large measure of self-confidence for a performing group to assert its virtuosity in its name. But the New York Virtuoso Singers practice truth in advertising. The singers in this 16 voice-chamber chorus, now in its 12th season under their founding conductor, Harold Rosenbaum, really are virtuosos. They would have to be, since they specialize in challenging contemporary music...Perhaps an a cappella concert of contemporary music looks on paper like a rigorously intellectual evening. But these 16 singers in an intimate recital hall provided more sheer excitement and beauty of sound than you will experience many an evening at the symphony."

**Anthony Tommasini, The New York Times**

"The Canticum Novum Singers and the New York Virtuoso Singers sang two unaccompanied Schoenberg choral works, perhaps more heroically than anyone had heard them sung before."

**Greg Sandow, The Wall Street Journal**

"Mr. Rosenbaum is not just an expert music director but a bracing programmer." **New York Times**

"The New York Virtuoso Singers lived up to its name. Appearing in the (Tanglewood) festival's Fromm Foundation concert, it sang six composers' music with virtuosic agility. Intonation, blend, diction, solo work: All were impeccable".

**Andrew L. Pincus, The Berkshire Eagle**

"The Canticum Novum Festival Singers showed the benefit of Harold Rosenbaum's training here (Bruckner's Psalm 146) and in two sentimental bits of Bruckneriana for male chorus, "*Germanenzug*" and *Abendzauber*".

**James R. Oestreich, The New York Times**

"The opening concert of the American Symphony Orchestra season at Avery Fisher Hall celebrated the origins of impressionism in music with excerpts from Offenbach's "*La Vie Parisienne*" and the rarely performed one-act opera by Bizet, *Djamileh*"...Harold Rosenbaum's Canticum Novum Festival singers did very well by the choruses. Sunday's concert attracted a large and enthusiastic audience."

**Raoul Abdul, New York Amsterdam News**

"In that domain of the performance of contemporary music which has been most neglected and least supported in this country, there is no choral group which has been more able and willing to perform responsibly the most demanding and knowing of contemporary works than The New York Virtuoso Singers, under the guidance of a sophisticated and understanding conductor. Not only do they deserve and require support, but the fate of contemporary choral music is largely contingent on such support." **Milton Babbitt**

**Press Questions for Conductor Harold Rosenbaum**

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The following questions are intended for print and broadcast journalists in connection with interviews with Harold Rosenbaum. These topics are designed to facilitate conversation with him and will make for a fascinating interview:

1. Tell me about your selection process for choral works to perform. Do you like to start from the text, or do you start with the musical ideas?
2. Who are your favorite composers to conduct? Are there any great composers that you don't like to conduct and why?
3. Are there any works by composers that aren't known as choral writers that if works by them were discovered would be a sort of dream project for you?
4. Tell me about some of your collaborations with the many fine artists and organizations you've worked with over the years.
5. What are the differences in working with your New York Virtuoso Singers and your Canticum Novum singers?
6. Tell me about your work with the Society for Universal Sacred Music. What are you currently working on for them?
7. What are some of your favorite places to present concerts, from an acoustical point of view?
8. Do you like the CD recording process?
9. How are you responding to the changing face of classical music in the 21st century?
10. What does the future hold for Harold Rosenbaum?



All press inquiries should be directed to Jeffrey James Arts Consulting at 516-586-3433  
or [jamesarts@att.net](mailto:jamesarts@att.net).