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SUMMARY

John Thomas Dodson is an American conductor, composer, mindfulness teacher, and public speaker specializing in exploring creativity, leadership and play.

As a musician, John Thomas Dodson brings a wealth of experience to the podium. He has served as music director, principal conductor, and artistic director for numerous orchestras, festivals and arts organizations in the US and abroad. Dodson has guest conducted professional orchestras in world-renowned venues, collaborated in opera and ballet productions, recorded for the Naxos label, and commissioned and premiered over twenty-five new works in Europe, North America and Russia. He is the founding Artistic Director of *Conciertos de la Villa de Santo Domingo*, where he conducted and presented concerts and educational programs for over a decade in the Renaissance and Baroque Era historic buildings of the Colonial City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. His music is available from Subito Music Distributors.

Currently John Thomas Dodson serves as the Principal Guest Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the oldest community orchestra in Atlanta, Georgia, the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra, as it celebrates its 65th season. He continues in his roles as Artistic Director of *Conciertos de la Villa de Santo Domingo* in the Dominican Republic and Music Director of the Lexington Bach Festival in Southeast Michigan. Dodson recently completed a three-year engagement as Principal Conductor of the Cleveland Women's Orchestra, leading concerts in Severance Hall, and conducting Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* with the Cleveland Opera.

In the area of mindfulness, John Thomas Dodson has become increasingly interested in helping performers use mindfulness practices to enhance their creativity, overcome mental obstacles and consistently attain high levels of artistry. He was selected to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities program, studying Buddhist practices in the Himalayas at the College of the Holy Cross with faculty from Holy Cross and Harvard University. Dodson has taken courses in Jon Kabat-Zinn's Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction programs at UCLA Mindfulness Awareness Research Center and UMass Memorial Center. He attended numerous silent meditation retreats learning the techniques of Vipassana meditation and is a member of the Atlanta Soto Zen Center. Dodson now leads mindfulness seminars, and workshops internationally in schools, colleges and conservatories, including sessions at Greece's Thessaloniki State Conservatory, the Dominican Republic's National Conservatory of Music, and in the United States at Oberlin College-Conservatory, Washington College, University of Pennsylvania Kutztown Summer Music Festival and Chopin Academy of Atlanta.

As a public speaker, John Thomas Dodson frequently appears as a presenter at international conferences in the US and abroad. He has spoken at national conferences of the International Conductors Guild and the League of American Orchestras and annually at the Creativity Conference, serving a broad community of creatives in many art forms from across the world.

As an educator, Dodson has worked with students from high school, college and graduate levels. He served on the faculty of the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts and numerous summer music festivals and conducted youth orchestras in the United States and Europe. While at the Cleveland Women's Orchestra, Dodson initiated an internship program and mentored two conducting interns from Oberlin College-Conservatory of Music and Cleveland Institute of Music. In the Dominican Republic, Dodson worked with young musicians in the El Sistema program, as a clinician for the youth orchestra and the National Conservatory of Music's orchestra. In partnership with Fundación de la Villa, the Ministry of Culture and the National Conservatory of Music he created an Early Music program, purchasing instruments and hosting Artist Teachers from the United States in the areas of voice, cello, harpsichord, Renaissance lute, Baroque guitar and theorbo. In higher education, Dodson was an Associate Professor of Music at Tennessee Technological University and Adrian College where he received the Newsom Award for Teaching Excellence.

A graduate of Johns Hopkins University, John Thomas Dodson holds a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where he studied under renowned conducting pedagogue Frederik Prausnitz. He continued his studies as a Conducting Fellow at the Aspen Music School with Paul Vermel. Dodson studied composition at Tennessee Technological University with Robert Jager and was mentored in strings by Francis Elliott, a student of Arturo Toscanini's concertmaster, Mischa Mischakoff. He continued his string mentoring under Ed Meyer, father of the Grammy Award-winning composer and virtuoso bassist, Edgar Meyer. Dodson is a recipient of the Lenawee Arts Award from the Crosswell Opera House, the American Symphony Orchestra League's Sally Parker Education Award, Tennessee Technological University's Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. As a recognition for his commitment to building vibrant arts communities he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, from Siena Heights University.

CONDUCTING POSITIONS (MUSIC DIRECTOR)

Conciertos de la Villa de Santo Domingo (conciertosdelavilla.com) 2011 – Present
Artistic Director and Co-founder of annual music festival in the Colonial City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

- conducted professional chamber orchestra, Camerata Colonial, in concerts held in UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Musicians were from New York City Ballet Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, Houston Symphony, Mostly Mozart Orchestra, Toledo Symphony, Detroit Opera Orchestra, Lansing Symphony, and faculty from University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Hartt School of Music, DePaul University and others.
- Presented all Bach Brandenburg Concerti performed by the Handel and Haydn Society Orchestra on period instruments in Iglésia Regina Angelorum, a historic Colonial City church built in the same year as that of Bach's manuscript
- created Early Music Residencies with Teaching Artists specializing in Performance Practices of the Renaissance, Baroque and Classical eras for students of the National Conservatory of Music and Ministry of Culture's choral ensemble, Coro Koribe
- purchased Early Music instruments (harpsichord, Renaissance Lute, Baroque Guitar, Theorbo from the United State, Spain and France to be donated to the Dominican Republic
- hosted nationally syndicated festival for Public Radio International broadcast on National Public Radio
- engaged guest artists (e.g., Kurt Nikkanen, Paul Silverthorne, Axiom Brass, Handel and Haydn Society)
- developed and conducted nation-wide educational concerts
- created videos of concerts for major corporations to stream to clients
- initiated livestreaming of major concerts from the Dominican Republic, Chicago and New York during COVID Pandemic
- introduced programs for at-risk youth and emerging Dominican musicians including solo recitals, master classes and collaborative musical experiences with festival musicians

Lexington Bach Festival (lexingtonbachfestival.org) 2015 – Present
Music Director of Music Festival located in Michigan's Blue Water resort area of Lake Huron

- conduct Festival Orchestra made up of professional musicians from Ohio and Michigan
- engage acclaimed guest artists (e.g., Caroline Goulding, Josefien Stoppelenburg, Andreas Klein, Mark Markham, Duo Sylvio Lute Duet)
- perform repertoire by J.S. Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Boyce, Purcell, Rameau, Mozart, Handel, Beethoven
- initiated relationship with Cleveland Institute of Music faculty members to engage outstanding graduate students for concertmaster position, first violin section and other key positions in the festival orchestra

Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra (acsorch.org) 2022 - 2023
Principal Guest Conductor and Artistic Advisor

- conduct three concerts with Atlanta's oldest community orchestra during a post-pandemic reorganization
- collaborate with guest artists (e.g. Piotr Folkert)
- prepare the organization to embark on a search for a new music director

Cleveland Women's Orchestra (clevelandwomensorchestra.org) 2019 - 2022
Principal Conductor and Music Advisor of American's Oldest Women's Orchestra
a three-year appointment while orchestra implements a music director search process

- conducted orchestra concerts at Maltz Center for the Performing Arts and Severance Hall
- led opera performances with The Cleveland Opera
- collaborated with outstanding guest artists (e.g. Jinjoo Cho, Antonio Pompa-Baldi)

Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra (bbsso.org)

2013 – 2016

Music Director of professional metropolitan orchestra

- engaged acclaimed guest artists (e.g., Shai Wosner, Janet Sung)
- substantially expanded orchestra's performance venues across Greater Detroit
- initiated collaborations with contemporary composers
- initiated new partnerships with area businesses for onsite performances
- administered annual solo competition
- initiated concert broadcasts on local cable television and radio
- dramatically increased orchestra's educational and community outreach activities

Adrian Symphony Orchestra (adriansymphony.org)

2001- 2015

Music Director of professional regional orchestra

- Co-commissioned Christopher Theofanidis's *Virtue* and led the Michigan premiere
- Conducted Beethoven symphonic cycle in Bärenreiter edition
- collaborated with American composers (e.g. Michael Daugherty, Bright Sheng, Christopher Theofanidis, Robert Jager)
- engaged acclaimed guest soloists (e.g., Philippe Entremont, Cecil Licad, Maria Asteriadou, Adele Anthony, David Aaron Carpenter, Yannis Tsitselikis, Leah Crocetto)
- collaborated with local university and college choruses in repertoire from Handel, Beethoven and Brahms
- introduced new concert-genres and broadened performance venues to increase audience reach
- introduced Carnegie Hall's Link Up program as part of the creation of an all-ages educational program
- created an artist-based community-engagement program to double donor base
- initiated a two-year Composer in Residence project with Grammy Award Winner, Kenneth Fuchs
- selected for League of American Orchestra's 3-year Institutional Vision Program mentored by Tom Morris and Lowell Noteboom

Bryan Symphony Orchestra (bryansymphony.org)

1993 – 2001

Music Director of professional per-service symphonic orchestra

- conducted all subscription concerts
- engaged guest artists (e.g., Jan Vogler, Rieko Aizawa, Alan Stepansky, Jerome Ashby)
- annually commissions and premieres of Robert Jager orchestral works later recorded for Naxos
- grew audiences-served to sold-out hall capacity
- two-time recipient of the American Symphony Orchestra League's Sally Parker Education Award
- created and hosted introduction to programs, *Prelude and Coffee*, for local PBS TV affiliate

Orchestra New York

1990 – 1993

Music Director of Manhattan-based professional per-service chamber orchestra

- Orchestra-in-Residence at St. Luke's Church
- Featured at Lincoln Center's Vincent Persichetti Retrospective
- Invited to perform at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall

Coronado Music Festival

1987 - 1990

- Founded summer music program, Coronado Music Festival, in Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley
- Invited orchestral musicians from across the United States for chamber music and orchestra concerts
- Invited guest artists from Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (Allan Vogel, Paul Shure, Bonnie Douglas, Harold Wolf)

Philharmonia Orchestra of Tucson (now the Tucson Youth Symphony)

1985 – 1990

Music Director of community/youth orchestra

- Conducted annual World Premieres by Richard Faith and Camil van Hulse
- Established "for-credit" partnership with Pima Community College's Department of Music

DANCE AND OPERA CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE (Selected)

Cleveland Opera: Puccini's Manon Lescaut	2020
Yale Opera/New Haven Symphony: Puccini's Suor Angelica	2015
Ballet Theatre of Toledo: Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker	2006 – 2009

COVER CONDUCTING

St. Louis Symphony: for Marin Alsop, Ivan Fischer, David Loebel	1990 – 1993
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GUEST CONDUCTING ENGAGEMENTS & COLLABORATIONS

Thessaloniki Megaro Youth Symphony Orchestra , Thessaloniki, Greece	2023
Colorado All State Symphony Orchestra , Fort Collins, Colorado	2023
Longmont Symphony Orchestra , Longmont, Colorado	2021
Cleveland Opera , Cleveland, Ohio	2020
Annapolis Chamber Orchestra ; Annapolis, Maryland	2020
West Michigan Symphony Orchestra ; Muskegon, Michigan	2013, 2019
Cleveland Women's Orchestra (Memorial Concert for Late Music Director Robert Cronquist)	2019
Roraima Symphony Orchestra (Venezuelan Émigré Orchestra); Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	2017
New Haven Symphony Orchestra & Yale Opera , New Haven, Massachusetts	2015
Sewanee Summer Music Center ; Sewanee, Tennessee	1995 – 1996, 1998, 2013
Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra ; Bloomfield, Michigan	2010 – 2012
Athens State Symphony Orchestra ; Athens, Greece	2010
Firelands Symphony Orchestra ; Huron, Ohio	2009
Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra ; St. Joseph, Michigan	2007
Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional of the Dominican Republic ; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	2006
National Symphony Orchestra of Bashkortostan ; Ufa, Russia	2000, 2003, 2004, 2005
Omsk State Philharmonic ; Omsk, Russia	1999 - 2005
Bialystok Symphony Orchestra ; Bialystok, Poland	2002
Irkutsk Philharmonic ; Irkutsk, Russia	1999
National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia ; Tomsk, Russia	1999
Orquesta Sinfónica UANL ; Monterrey, Mexico	1998, 1999
Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra ; Rochester, New York	1994, 1997
Colorado Symphony Orchestra Summer Training Program ; Denver, Colorado	1997
Tucson Symphony Orchestra ; Tucson, Arizona	1989
Evansville Philharmonic ; Evansville, Indiana	1988
Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra ; Budapest, Hungary	1987

NOTABLE GUEST CONDUCTING VENUES

Boettcher Concert Hall , Denver, Colorado
Carnegie Hall , New York, New York
Eastman Theatre , Rochester, New York
Hill Auditorium , Ann Arbor, Michigan
Hungarian State Opera House , Budapest, Hungary
Lincoln Center , New York, New York
Megaron Concert Hall , Athens, Greece
National Theatre , Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Severance Hall , Cleveland, Ohio

TELEVISION/RADIO BROADCASTS

Public Radio International/National Public Radio	2017
WRCJ Classical Radio , Detroit, Michigan	2015 - 2017
Michigan Public Radio , Muskegon, Michigan	2013, 2019
West Bloomfield Television , Bloomfield Township, Michigan	2013 - 2017
Greece Classical Radio , Athens, Greece	2010
Bashkortostan Television , Ufa, Bashkortostan	2000, 2003, 2004, 2005
Raíces Radio , Dominican Republic	2017
Bialystok Television , Bialystok, Poland	2002
UNAL Radio , Monterrey, Mexico	1998, 1999
Tennessee Public Television , Cookeville, Tennessee	1991 - 1993
Hungarian State Radio , Budapest, Hungary	1987

RECORDINGS

- NAXOS Records:** I Dream of Peace: Orchestral Music by Robert Jager 2011
Omsk Philharmonic Orchestra, St. Louis Children's Choir, Stephanie Winker, Michael Lackey
- ASO:** Vivaldi's Four Seasons 2007
Janet Sung, Violin; Adrian Symphony Orchestra

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY FACULTY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Adrian College, Associate Professor** 2001 – 2012
- *Ross Newsom Award for Outstanding Teaching*
- Courses Taught: Conducting, Form and Analysis, Music History, Orchestration
- Tennessee Technological University, Associate Professor** 1993 – 2001
- *Pan-Hellenic Faculty of the Year Award*
- Courses Taught: Conducting, University Orchestra, Music Appreciation

MINDFULNESS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Thessaloniki State Conservatory, Thessaloniki, Greece** 2023
Mindfulness for Performers: Balancing Awareness & Concentration, Self-Talk: Non-learning verbal loops
- Atlanta Chopin Academy, Atlanta, Georgia** 2022
Introduction to Mindfulness
- University of Pennsylvania Kutztown – Summer Music Festival;** Kutztown, Pennsylvania 2020, 2021, 2023
Free to Play: Developing Mindfulness for Performing Artists, Conducting
- Washington College – Department of Music;** Chestertown, Maryland 2020
Mindfulness for Musicians Seminar
- Oberlin College – Conservatory of Music;** Oberlin, Ohio 2019 – Present
Mindfulness for Musicians, Finding Center
Multi-week online and on-site seminars focusing on concentration, COVID isolation issues, habit building techniques, addressing anxiety, stage fright & perfectionism
- Dominican Republic National Conservatory of Music** 2018, 2019
Masterclasses with Conservatory Orchestra
Mindfulness for Musicians Seminars
- Huron High School Music Department** 2019
Mindfulness for Musicians Presentation

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Siena Heights University** 2013, 2014
Guest Lecturer
- Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts;** Murfreesboro, Tennessee 1996 – 2006
Music Faculty: Orchestra, Inter-Disciplinary Education for Artists
- Columbia University;** New York, New York 1993
Guest Lecturer

ARRANGEMENTS/ORCHESTRATIONS

- Performances** by Detroit Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, West-Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Adrian Symphony Orchestra, Lexington Bach Festival Orchestra, Cleveland Women's Orchestra
- Subito Music Distributors** – World-wide representation

GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE

- Tennessee Technological University Faculty Senate** 1999 – 2001

GRANTS ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

- National Endowment for the Arts: Artists Communities Panel** 1992 – 1993
- Member in 1st year; Appointed Panel Chair for the 2nd year

ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

- Tennessee Technological University Performing Arts Series** 1998 – 2001
- Administered campus-wide performing arts series funded through student fees
 - Invited a variety of guest artists ranging from a traditional Tibetan music ensemble to the Moscow Chamber Orchestra
 - Hosted guest artists, responsible for engaging all performers and managing artist visits

- The Yard, A Colony for Performing Artists** 1990 - 1993
 Administrative Director of residency programs supporting modern dance
- Worked with Paul Taylor, Bessie Schönberg and Patricia Nanon in hosting multi-week residencies for choreographers and dance companies on Martha's Vineyard each summer, followed by a season at the Joyce Theatre in New York.
 - Successfully wrote grant proposals to the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, and numerous private foundations in the New York City area to support programs.
 - Managed office and production staff, organized artists' housing, and was responsible for all performances.
 - Worked with Artistic Director, Board of Directors and Advisory Board members in support of The Yard's mission

INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- The Creativity Conference Featured Speaker,** 2020 – Present
 Featured Speaker, Music Panel Chair, Writers' Panel for an annual international gathering of creatives from the fields of music, film, photography, literature, theater, dance and visual arts
Invited to speak at Reykjavik, Iceland Conference in August of 2023

- The Mind at Play: Getting Free
- Becoming an Explorer: The Virtues of Getting Intentionally Lost
- Falling Up the Mountain: Using Failure Points to Ascend

- League of American Orchestras National Conference** 2012 – 2014
 Session Leader for Conducting Groups

- Building Artistic Communities
- Budgeting for Music Directors
- Programming for Music Directors

- League of American Orchestras Essentials of Orchestra Management** 2012
 Presenter

- Building Artistic Communities – a new model

- Conductors Guild International Conference** 2012 – 2013
 Presenter

- Contemporary Music Programming: Commissioning new works

- American Symphony Orchestra League National Conference** 1995
 Panelist/Presenter

- Contemporary Music Programming: Commissioning new works

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE (Selected)

- Cleveland Women's Orchestra** 2019 – Present
- Board of Directors: Policies on Conflict of Interest, Board Member Agreement, Confidentiality, Best Practices, Task Forces – Orchestra Handbook, New members, Conductor Search
 - Manager: Best Practices, Venue Selections, Grants

- Stanislav Consulting** 2015 – 2017

- Created Substance of Leadership: Practicing Internal Transformation – a humanities-based corporate leadership development program for emerging leaders (substanceofleadership.com)

- Muncie Symphony Orchestra** 2011 – 2012

- Board of Directors: Visioning, Best Practices, Board Development, Season design, Audience Development
- Executive Director: Best Practices, Financial Development

- Firelands Symphony Orchestra** 2010 – 2012

- Board of Directors: Visioning, Best Practices, Board Development, Audience Development
- Executive Director: Best Practices, Financial Development, Season Planning, New Venue Selections

AWARDS & HONORS

- Siena Heights University:** Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa*. 2016

- United States House of Representatives** Congressional Record of the 114th Congress 2015

- State of Michigan:** Representative Nancy Jenkins; Senator Dale Zorn and Governor Rick Snyder
 Recognition for impact on the cultural life of Southeast Michigan

- Croswell Opera House:** *Lenawee Arts Award*, for leadership in the arts 2008

- Tennessee Technological University:** Outstanding Young Alumnus Award 1988

- Budapest Philharmonic:** *Inclusion in Golden Book* (Commemorating concerts of the highest quality) 1987

EDUCATION

Aspen Music School	1983
Conducting with Paul Vermeil	
Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University	1983
Master of Music: Orchestral Conducting (<i>Summa cum laude</i>)	
Conducting with Frederik Prausnitz	
Piano with Nancy Roldan	
Tennessee Technological University	1981
Bachelor of Science: Music Education (<i>cum laude</i>)	
Conducting with James Wattenbarger	
Composition with Robert Jager	
Trumpet with Kim Dunnick and Howard Brahmstedt	
Piano with Patricia Brahmstedt	
Violin with Francis Elliott	
Mannes School of Music: Conducting Workshop with Sergiu Commissiona, Michael Charry	
University of Southern California: Conducting Workshop with Daniel Lewis and Harold Farberman	

MINDFULNESS STUDIES

Personal Coaching and Retreat Programs

- John Roadhouse (Tibetan Practice: Trungpa Rinpoche) 2005 - 7
- Dhamma Pakasa (Vipassana Practice: S.N. Goenka) 2012 - 2016
- Robert Rosenbaum (Zen Practice: Shunryu Suzuki) 2020 - Present

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar

College of the Holy Cross: Buddhist Traditions in the Himalayas with Dr. Todd T. Lewis 2009

UCLA: Mindfulness Awareness Research Center

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Course 2020

Massachusetts Memorial Center for Mindfulness

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Course 2020

Atlanta Soto Zen Center

Zen Book Studies with Mark Adams 2020 - Present