



# Ronald Foster



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# Ronald Foster - Biography

Ronald Foster is one of the new breed of composer/conductors capable of working within a wide variety of musical genres. Whether it be on the concert stage, in the theater, or in the areas of jazz and popular music, Mr. Foster has earned a reputation as a creative, innovative, and sensitive musician.

Mr. Foster has been a frequent guest conductor with the **Milwaukee Symphony** since 1998, and has also served as guest conductor with **the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra, Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra, Colorado Springs Symphony, South Carolina Philharmonic, Traverse Symphony, Sheboygan Symphony, Waukesha Symphony, Skokie Valley Symphony, Pueblo Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, Soundscapes Chamber Ensemble, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Orchestra.**

Ronald Foster is currently Co-Artistic Director (with Mireille Favarel) of **An Evening at the Ballet**, a symphonic package program for dancers and orchestra, to be inaugurated during the 2013-14 season. Mr. Foster is also Artistic Director of **the St. Luke's Chamber Concert Series** (Racine, Wisconsin). He has been Conductor and Composer with **the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Arts in Community Education (ACE) Program** since 1997, and was Guest Composer with the MSO in January, 2000. In addition to his work as a conductor and composer, he has been an Adjunct Professor at **Carroll University** since 2009 (American Film Music, The Music of the Movies: Cultural Perspectives), and was Adjunct Professor of Composition at the **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee** from 1999-2006.

Mr. Foster served as Music Director, Conductor, and Co-Founder of the **Broadmoor Pops Orchestra** (Colorado) from 1992-98, Music Director and Conductor of the **Pikes Peak Civic Orchestra** from 1989-91 and 1994-95, Music Director and Conductor of the **Colorado College Chamber Orchestra** from 1990-95, Assistant Conductor of the **Pueblo Symphony** from 1989-91, and was Music Director, Conductor, and Composer/Arranger for the **Broadmoor Ice Revue Orchestra** from 1985-95.

The music of Ronald Foster has been performed and/or recorded by **the Milwaukee Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, Amarillo Symphony, Charleston Symphony, Colorado Springs Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra, Garden State Philharmonic, Cape Cod Symphony, Lubbock Symphony, Traverse Symphony, Fox Valley Symphony, Kokomo Symphony, Ohlone Symphony, Plymouth Symphony, Pueblo Symphony, Wellesley Symphony, Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony, Lamont Symphony, Bloomington Pops, Broadmoor Pops, Aureole, Da Vinci String Quartet, Eclectix, Juilliard Brass Quintet, Present Music, Stephen Burns, Woody Herman, Bobby McFerrin, Heidi Grant Murphy, Doc Severinsen, David Shostac, The Four Freshmen, Dallas Jazz Orchestra, St. Luke's Chamber Players, Air Force Academy Band (Air Force Band of the Rockies), Air Force Band of Liberty (Boston), Air Force Band of Flight (Dayton), Band of the Royal Air Force College**, and leading chamber, collegiate, and military ensembles. His works include

music for orchestra, wind ensemble/band, brass and percussion ensemble, string quartet, chamber ensembles, solo clarinet, solo guitar, chorus, children's chorus, jazz band, and electronic orchestration. He is the former Chief Composer for the **United States Air Force Academy Band**.

Ronald Foster attended the University of North Texas and holds degrees from the University of Denver (MA: Orchestral Conducting/Composition) and the University of Southern Colorado (BS: Music Performance: Woodwinds). He studied conducting with Harold Farberman, Vincent La Guardia, and Daniel Lewis, and composition with John Corigliano and Donald Keats. Mr. Foster won the **1993 America the Beautiful** Commissioning Project and has received yearly **ASCAP Composer Awards** since 1992. Ronald Foster's ". . . on the Wings of Angels," a joint commission for the Dayton Philharmonic and the Air Force Band of Flight, commemorating the 2003 Centennial of Powered Flight, premiered in 2003. His chamber orchestra version of David Carlson's "The Midnight Angel," commissioned by Milwaukee's renowned Skylight Opera Theatre, opened the Skylight's 2007-2008 season.

## Ronald Foster - Critical Acclaim

Congratulations on your recent CD. You have wonderful craft and the music is very beautiful.

**John Corigliano**

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Finding your work placed between Bernstein and Copland on a program must be a little daunting for a composer. But Foster's "Contemplations for Solo Clarinet" held up quite well in such august company. It proved to be a colorful, creative piece, particularly in Haskell's spirited interpretation...

**Elaine Schmidt, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel**

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Music of this sort is hard to play. They played "Notturmo" with panache, sympathy and a confidence born of conductor Ron Foster's rock-solid command of the score.

**Tom Strini, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel**

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The Milwaukee Symphony Pops, under the baton of Ronald Foster, presented the program, "Symphonic Night at the Movies." Foster and the orchestra did a remarkable job.

**Elaine Schmidt, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel**

# Ronald Foster – Orchestral Works

“. . . on the Wings of Angels"

Variations on Good King Wenceslas

Variations In America (A Celebration of Diversity)

America: The Vision (Fantasia on "America the Beautiful")

Visions (Past, Present, Future)

Summertime Fantasy for Flute and Orchestra (after Gershwin)

Conversations for Flute and Orchestra

Dithyramb (Overture)

Reflections (for studio orchestra)

# Ronald Foster – Band/Wind Ensemble Works

“. . . on the Wings of Angels"

Aurora Borealis

Wings (Reflections on the United States Air Force Academy)

Variations on Good King Wenceslas

Freedom from Want (inspired by the Norman Rockwell painting)

A Christmas Overture

# Ronald Foster – Chamber Music Works

Duet for Flute and Harp

Soliloquy (for 12-String Guitar)

Constellations (for percussion [drumset], guitar, keyboard, and electric bass)

Contemplations for Solo Clarinet

Cadenza for Harp (for Concerto in Bb Major by G. F. Handel)

Waves (for Present Music)

Three Hymns for Choir, Organ, and Brass (adaptations of traditional hymns)

All The Pretty Little Horses (adapted from the traditional lullaby)

Meditations for Flute and Harp

Prayer for Flute and Harp

Fanfare 1989 (for Brass and Percussion)

Passacaglia for Brass and Percussion

The Lord Has Triumphed (based upon Psalm 118) for Chorus, Brass, and Organ

Marche Surreal (for Brass Quintet)

# Ronald Foster – Jazz Works

*Instrumentation (unless otherwise noted): 5 saxophones (alto, alto, tenor, tenor, baritone/frequently doubling) 4 tpts - 4 tbns - 4 rhythm*

Check It Out! (commercial "jingle")

Headin' for the 1990's (for Jazz Band and Computer Sequencer)

In Memoriam: Gary McFarland (for Solo Trombone and Jazz Band)

Passages (for solo trumpet and jazz band)

America Rocks (for Jazz Band)

Catharsis (for Jazz Band)

Metamorphosis (for Solo Jazz Quintet, Jazz Band and Audio Tape)

Suzanne (for Solo Alto Saxophone and Jazz Orchestra)

A New Beginning (for Solo Trumpet and Jazz Band)

Prophecy (for Solo Trombone and Jazz Band)

Inner Journey (for Solo Tenor Saxophone and Jazz Band)

Portrait (for Solo Alto Saxophone and Jazz Band)

Nemesis (for Jazz Band)

\*All jazz compositions commissioned by the United States Air Force Academy Falconaires jazz band unless otherwise noted.

Additional information on all jazz works (including performances and recordings) furnished upon request.