

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Markand Thakar is Music Director of the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra.

A former assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic, Maestro Thakar's appearances include concerts with that orchestra and some 40 others across North America. Baltimore Chamber Orchestra has performed a five-concert tour of China, and has recorded for the Naxos label, including a disk of music by Jonathan Leshnoff named to Naxos' "Best of the Best" list. In his 12-tenure as Music Director of the Duluth Superior Symphony, the DSSO saw dramatic growth in both audience and artistic prominence to what Minnesota Public Radio called "Minnesota's other great orchestra."

Maestro Thakar has been a frequent guest conductor at the Aspen Music Festival. He has appeared with major soloists including Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman, and is a winner of the Geraldine C. and Emory M. Ford Foundation Award.

Thakar is a protégé of the legendary Sergiu Celibidache, and a former Fulbright Fellow with degrees from The Juilliard School, Columbia University, and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory, with additional studies at the Curtis Institute and the Ciprian Porumbescu Conservatory in Bucharest, Romania. Other conducting studies were with Gustav Meier, Max Rudolf and Peter Perret.

Markand Thakar is the author of three seminal books. *Counterpoint: Fundamentals of Music Making* (Yale University Press), also issued in Italian and Czech, uses species counterpoint to promote an understanding of how both composer and performer contribute to the experience of musical beauty. *Looking for the "Harp" Quartet; An Investigation into Musical Beauty* (University of Rochester Press, 2011) is a study of musical beauty from the standpoint of the composer, performer and listener. And *On the Principles and Practice of Conducting* (University of Rochester Press, 2016) is a manual for conductors at all levels.

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