



## **Jay Fishman, Executive & Artistic Director**

Jay Fishman has been the artistic and executive director of the Minnesota Sinfonia since its inception in 1989. Under his leadership, the Sinfonia inaugurated its policies of free admission and welcoming children to all concerts, and created Music in the Schools, the orchestra's education program for inner-city elementary students.

As artistic director, Fishman is responsible for the development, quality and execution of all the Minnesota Sinfonia's music programs. He chooses all musicians, repertoire and soloists, and conducts all rehearsals and concerts, including all Music in the Schools (MIS) performances, and is instrumental in the development of the MIS curriculum. As Executive Director, he oversees all administrative matters, and works with the orchestra's management as needed on fundraising and other tasks.

Fishman earned a bachelor of science in music education and bachelor of arts in music composition from the University of Minnesota in 1969. In 1974, he earned a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the Indiana University School of Music. Also in 1974, he was a finalist in the Fulbright-Hayes Conducting Fellowship. From 1974 to 1976, Fishman served as music director and conductor for the Louisville Chamber Orchestra. He then traveled to London, where he worked with Sir Neville Mariner of the Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields Chamber Orchestra. While in London, he also recorded for BBC Radio.

In 1978, Fishman returned to the United States and for 11 years served as the music director of the Minneapolis Chamber Symphony (MCS), which he founded. Under his leadership, the MCS received local, regional and national accolades, including the Award for Excellence from the McKnight Foundation and ongoing support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 1989, Fishman founded the Minnesota Sinfonia and took on the role of executive and artistic director. To date, he has conducted over 1,300 performances, and introduced classical music to 150,000 inner-city elementary students. In 2008, he led a symposium on use of the professional orchestra in music education for the Arts Midwest Regional Conference, and in 2010 he will speak on the same subject to the Association of Wisconsin Orchestras.