

Charles Wetherbee – Violinist

Violinist **Charles Wetherbee** has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the world, including Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Canada, Mexico, and the United States. He has appeared at the Aspen Music Festival, the Garth Newell Center, the Hidden Valley Festival, the Roycroft Chamber Festival, the Nouvelle Academie International d'Été (Nice, France), the Olympic Music Festival, the MidAmerica Music Festival, and at Strings in the Mountains in Steamboat, CO. Charles has been the Concertmaster of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra following his appointment in 1994. He has appeared numerous times as soloist with the orchestra, earning high praise both from audiences and critics. After a recent performance with the Columbus Symphony, [The Columbus Dispatch](#) wrote "...a first rate showman...his doublestops, harmonics, and beautiful sound kept the audience spellbound".

A native of Buffalo, New York, Charles gave his first performances at age six. He made his debut with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra under Symon Bychkov, and since then has performed with the National Symphony under Mstislav Rostropovitch, as well as the Alexandria Symphony, the Concerto Soloists of Philadelphia, the Minnesota Synphonia, the National Repertory Orchestra, the Orchestra Nacional de Mexico, the Symphony Orchestra of the Curtis Institute, the Buffalo Philharmonic, and the Virginia Symphony, among others. In 1988, he toured Asia with the National Repertory Orchestra as concertmaster and soloist, including performances in Seoul, Korea as part of the Olympic Arts Festival. In the same year he also made his New York debut at Carnegie Hall to critical acclaim as a participant in the American Music Competition. In 1990, he traveled to the Persian Gulf to perform for the men and women of the armed services. [The Washington Post](#) called Wetherbee "a consummate artist...with flawless technique". [The Virginia Pilot](#) said that he "...gave a performance of great conviction and emotion". Recently, Mr. Wetherbee was awarded the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra's 2005-2006 *Ashworth Artist* award. He was also the recipient of the Columbus Symphony's 2003 *George Hardesty Award*.

In November 2005, Charles gave the World Premiere of the Violin Concerto by composer Jonathan Leshnoff with the Columbus Symphony, and subsequently performed the concerto in Baltimore, MD with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. After this performance, [The Baltimore Sun](#) wrote "This was very classy fiddle playing, with a golden, penetrating tone, sterling technique and strongly communicative phrasing." Mr. Wetherbee then performed the Leshnoff concerto in Mexico City, Mexico, with the Orchestra Nacional de Mexico, Kyoto, Japan, with the Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, and in Breckenridge, Colorado, with the National Repertory Orchestra. Charles has been heard nationwide on the NPR program "Performance Today", featuring his performance of the *Red Violin* by John Corigliano with Joanne Falletta and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2002, he gave the Latin American premiere of the *Red Violin*, and was immediately re-engaged to return in 2003, for performances of the Szymanowski Violin

Concerto. He has also been heard throughout the Northwest United States on public radio as a performer in the Olympic Music Festival from 2002 - 2006.

A devoted chamber musician, Charles is the first violinist of *the Carpe Diem String Quartet*. He is also the Artistic Director of *The Marble Cliff Chamber Players*, a music festival based in Columbus, Ohio. He is founding member of *Opus 3* piano trio, and with *Opus 3* has performed in the French, German, Austrian, and Dutch embassies, as well as the Terrace Theater of the Kennedy Center, the National Gallery, the Corcoran Gallery, Strathmore Hall, and throughout the eastern United States. He is also the artistic director of the *Snake River Chamber Players*, in Keystone, Colorado.

Charles is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Aaron Rosand. Other mentors include Sylvia Rosenberg, Karen Tuttle, and Felix Galimir. As a recording artist, he is represented on Naxos, the Vienna Modern Classics, as well as the Cascade labels, and in 2002 was also featured on a recording with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra playing Massenet's *Meditation from Thais*. Charles plays a violin made by Kurt Widenhouse, and a bow by Charles Espy.

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