

Ruth Ochs

Conductor



Conductor and educator, **RUTH OCHS**, is Lecturer in Music at Princeton University, where she conducts the Princeton University Sinfonia and teaches undergraduate music performance courses. She holds degrees in music and orchestral conducting from Harvard University (*magna cum laude* with highest honors in music) and the University of Texas at Austin (Master of Music in orchestral conducting), and completed her Ph.D. in musicology at Princeton University with a dissertation on Karol Szymanowski's neo-nationalist ballet, *Harnasie*. As a Fulbright Scholar, she studied music at Humboldt Universität in Berlin, Germany, and she has studied the Polish language at the Uniwersytet Jagielloński in Kraków, Poland. A student for many summers at the Pierre Monteux School in Hancock, Maine, the School's director, Maestro Michael Jinbo, was her principal conducting mentor. In 2008 she served as the School's first conducting associate.

When she arrived at Princeton in the fall of 2002, Ochs assumed directorship of the Princeton University Sinfonia and steered its growth from a chamber orchestra to a full-size symphonic orchestra performing repertory from the baroque to the most recent, including new works by Princeton University student composers. She also has worked closely with the Princeton University Orchestra, leading rehearsals and sectionals, and conducting the orchestra often in concert.

Passionate about raising the bar with all aspiring and eager musicians, Ruth Ochs also shares her time with community and youth orchestras. She is now in her twelfth season as conductor and music director of the Westminster Community Orchestra, based in Princeton, New Jersey. With that orchestra, Ochs has led successful opera gala performances, collaborations with partner ensembles and performance faculty from the Westminster Conservatory of Music, and a popular series of children's concerts. She was the founding conductor of a collaborative youth orchestra that joins middle school musicians of the Princeton Charter School and the Westminster Conservatory of Music, which she conducted until 2017. A supporter of new music, she led the premieres of several compositions by Laurie Altman, and conducted the premiere recording of his "*Homage a Stravinsky*" for Albany Records. She has also premiered many compositions by Princeton University and Westminster Choir College student composers.

Alongside conducting, Ruth Ochs enjoys performing as cellist and harpsichordist, often leading chamber orchestra performances from the keyboard. Since 2013, she has delivered several preconcert lectures for the Princeton University Concert series. She lives in Lawrenceville, New Jersey with her husband and two sons.