

## Music Director Candidate Questions – Edwin Outwater

1. *What instrument do you play?*

I play double bass, clarinet (as a young student) and piano.

2. *At what point did you know you wanted to conduct?*

When I first saw conducting being taught it became interesting to me. I thought I might give it a try!

3. *Who is your favorite composer right now?*

Whoever I'm working on that week. Deciding who is the greatest of the great has never seemed like a worthwhile pursuit to me. We're surrounded by the greatest music in history, why rank it? Too reductive.

4. *Is there one great work that is on your "bucket list" to conduct?*

So many! Countless operas, and quite a few Mahler Symphonies still. And for some reason I STILL haven't conducted The Rite of Spring, which is an outrage!

5. *What are you looking forward to doing when you visit Kalamazoo?*

I've been there quite a few times before - there's a certain bar in the pedestrian mall that makes a smoke-infused Old Fashioned ...

6. *What are your hobbies/interests outside of the music world?*

I'm an avid reader and I love anything outdoors: skiing, hiking, surfing, biking. I also occasionally watch bad TV shows.

7. *If I got in your car and turned on the radio right now, what would I hear?*

NPR or podcasts. I find driving to music distracting. I can't turn off my analytical brain when music is playing. I want to keep all of you fellow drivers, bikers and pedestrians safe, so I don't listen to music when I drive!

8. *If you could have lunch with any composer, dead or alive, who would you choose and why?*

Haydn, because he seems to be both charming and wise.

9. *What role do you see symphony orchestras fulfilling in today's arts and entertainment world?*

The job of an orchestra is to inspire others. Each one does it in different ways, but any orchestra needs to be create specific things to make their particular community a better place. They also have to play like it really matters. The audience knows very well if it's just another day at the office.

10. *How would you define your style on the podium?*

Helpful.

11. *What is your favorite part of working with professional orchestras?*

The fact that everyone on stage has devoted his or her *life and livelihood* to music.

12. *What is your favorite food?*

I'm often asked if I have food allergies at restaurants, to which I respond, I only have food *enthusiasms*. I love it all, but if I only had to eat Italian and Japanese food for the rest of my life, I'd be pretty happy. And a little Mexican food too, since I'm from the West Coast.