

# Huw Edwards

Huw Edwards is now in his eighth season as Music Director of the Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra and has consistently received critical approval from audiences, soloists, and press for his intense performances and daring programming. Recent highlights include performances of Malcolm Arnold's Second Symphony, Ravel's *Mother Goose*, Hanson's *Romantic* Symphony, the gargantuan Fifth Symphony by Bruckner, plus world premieres of new and commissioned works by Pacific NW composers. CSO's music program has expanded greatly under Huw's leadership; the orchestra now enjoys a second concert series in East Metro, will present a pair of Holiday Concerts this December, the whole orchestra will perform at January's Gala, and an encore performance at the new Gerding Theater in the Pearl District.

Mr. Edwards has also completed four successful seasons as Music Director of the Olympia Symphony Orchestra—where there is a palpable sense of excitement following his appointment. After landmark sold-out seasons the past two years, Edwards is credited with improving the Orchestra and being very active in the community.

Mr. Edwards has performed with the Oregon Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, worked with the symphony orchestras of Dallas and Memphis, as well as numerous ensembles—both nationally and internationally—and has served as cover conductor for the Seattle and Oregon Symphony Orchestras. In both 2005 and 2006, Huw led the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra before 20,000 people at one of their famous "Concerts on the Square." Huw made a notable debut with the Eugene Symphony in 2005 and was also the conductor at the inaugural Annas Bay Music Festival in August 2006, where he conducted two 20<sup>th</sup>-century American operas.

From 2002-2005 Mr. Edwards was Music Director of the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras and a faculty member at the Marrowstone Music Festival from 1998 to 2005. Mr. Edwards moved to Seattle after seven memorable seasons (1995-2002) as Music Director of the PYP. Huw has been invited back to guest conduct a concert with the PYP in May, which will include Bruckner's Symphony No. 4.

Born in South Wales (UK), Mr. Edwards holds degrees from the University of Surrey, England and SMU, Dallas, which he attended on scholarship in 1988. Huw came to the NW from Chicago, where he was a lecturer at Northwestern University and a doctoral candidate. His principal teachers have been Simon Johnson and Barry Wordsworth (London), Anshel Brusilow and Eduardo Mata (Dallas), and Victor Yampolsky (Chicago). Huw was recently made an Honorary member of the Elgar Society—in this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year—for his performances of many Elgar works and outstanding advocacy of this masterful English composer.