

Todd Levy, clarinetist

Todd Levy is principal clarinet of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and of the Santa Fe Opera during the summer months. He is also on the faculty at UWM. He made his debut at the age of seventeen performing the Hindemith Clarinet Concerto at Lincoln Center. Since then, some highlights of his solo career have included concerto appearances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival and with the Israel Philharmonic in Tel-Aviv, performances of the Brahms f minor Sonata arranged for clarinet and orchestra by Luciano Berio with Maestro Berio conducting, the World Premiere of Peter Schickele's Concerto for Clarinet and Flute with the composer conducting, and the European premiere of John Harbison's Concerto for Clarinet and Oboe. In addition, Mr. Levy was a featured soloist in the Mozart Bicentennial at Lincoln Center where he performed the Mozart Clarinet Concerto at the Mostly Mozart Festival. In November of 1998, Mr. Levy performed Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue at the White House for President and Mrs. Bill Clinton, and in February of 2001, he won a Grammy Award for his participation in the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra CD entitled Stravinsky Miniatures.

In 1988, Mr. Levy was invited by conductor Michael Tilson Thomas to become the principal clarinet of the New World Symphony where he stayed until 1993. In January of 1996, Mr. Levy made his debut as guest principal clarinet with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra in all eight performances of Janacek's The Makropulos Case with soprano Jessye Norman. Since that time and until coming to Milwaukee, Mr. Levy appeared regularly with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and as Eb clarinetist on all of the Met Chamber Ensemble concerts at Carnegie Hall with James Levine conducting and playing the piano. In addition to the Met, he has been guest principal clarinetist with the New York Philharmonic, the Cincinnati Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the Orchestra of St. Lukes.

An active chamber musician, Mr. Levy has collaborated with members of the Guarneri, Juilliard, Cleveland, Orion, and Ying quartets, the Beaux Arts Trio, Midori, Christoph Eschenbach, Richard Goode, Mitsuko Uchida, Carol Wincenc and Paula Robison. He was also clarinetist with the Naumburg Award-winning Aspen Wind from 1992-1997 and a participant at the Marlboro Music Festival for four summers. He has recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, Decca, BMG and Telarc. Mr. Levy is a graduate of the Juilliard School where he studied with David Weber. He performs exclusively on Selmer Signature Clarinets and Vandoren reeds and mouthpieces.