

## CONDUCTORS

### **LEVI HAMMER**

Assistant Conductor

Currently assistant conductor of the Akron Symphony and music director of the Akron Youth Symphony, Levi Hammer is well known as a conductor and pianist of remarkable range and versatility. Equally comfortable in a variety of genres and repertoire, he appears regularly as conductor, concerto soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician. This summer Hammer led Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* on a program shared with Lorin Maazel at the Castleton Festival, where he returned as associate conductor. Last year took Hammer to Salzburg, where he shadowed the Vienna Philharmonic at the Salzburg Festival as the Ansbacher Fellow, in addition to his duties as assistant conductor at the Castleton Festival. With the Boston Philharmonic, he assisted Benjamin Zander as the Zander Fellow, a prestigious conducting apprenticeship. Hammer has collaborated with George Manahan at the Aspen Music Festival and served as cover conductor at the Atlanta Symphony, where he has assisted Robert Spano, Ludovic Morlot and Oliver Knussen. In his role as pianist and harpsichordist, he has recently played with the New World Symphony, Mercury Baroque and in several performances of Aaron Copland's complete piano music. He served as assistant conductor at Rice University Opera, and was also music director of *Hammer Music*, a series of thematically programmed concerts. This Fall Hammer joined the faculty of the University of Akron School of Music, where he coaches operatic and song literature. Levi studied conducting, piano, composition and languages in both the U.S. and Europe, and his teachers have included conductors Dennis Russell Davies, Kurt Masur and pianist Brian Connolly. In his spare time he indulges in his obsession with fin-de-siècle Vienna.