

CARL TOPILOW

GUEST CONDUCTOR



Carl Topilow is renowned worldwide for his versatility, whether he is holding a conductor's baton or his trademark red clarinet. He is a multi-talented virtuoso who equally at home in classical and popular music both as conductor and instrumentalist. Carl's pops performances blend light classical, swing, jazz, Broadway, Dixieland, and Klezmer music, usually finding occasion to include a number on his array of brightly colored clarinets. His

unique approach to pops programming includes extensive audience involvement and true showmanship.

Following his long time dream of conducting his own pops orchestra, Carl founded the Cleveland Pops. The orchestra, currently in its 15th season, plays to large audiences in Severance Hall and in several other venues throughout Northeast Ohio. The Cleveland Pops Orchestra's diverse, innovative and electrifying programs have been critically acclaimed. The orchestra's first CD, entitled *Music to Grow On*, is an exciting collection of music for children and adults of all ages. Its second, *Live at the Pops*, celebrates the orchestra's 10th anniversary, and is an exciting compilation of music taken from live performances.

Carl is also Conductor and Director of the Orchestral Program at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He is currently in his 30th year as conductor of the CIM Orchestras, and is also head of the Masters program in orchestral conducting. Graduates of this program can be found as maestros with several leading orchestras.

Carl recently completed his 33rd season as Music Director and Conductor of the National Repertory Orchestra, a summer music festival based in beautiful Breckenridge, Colorado. He has assisted in the training of talented young musicians and conductors for positions in symphonic orchestras in the United States and abroad.

Carl has also served as Principal Pops Conductor for the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra in Ft. Myers, Florida, as well as for the Toledo Symphony Orchestra.

As a guest conductor, Carl has appeared around the world with nearly 100 orchestras, in 30 states in the USA, as well as orchestras in Canada, China, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland and Venezuela.

In addition to his busy conducting schedule, Carl avidly pursues his passion for performing as clarinetist. He often

performs with his brother Arthur, a pianist, and the duo can be heard on three CDs, *Come in from the Cold*, *A View from the Top*, and *Music of America*.

Carl is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, with a degree in clarinet performance and a masters degree in music education. He has held conducting fellowships with the National Orchestral Association with Leon Barzin and the Aspen Music Festival with under Jorge Mester. Carl began his professional career as Exxon Arts Endowment Conductor of the Denver Symphony Orchestra.

Carl makes his home in Beachwood, Ohio, where he lives with his wife Shirley, Director of Morgenstern Dance Studio and Executive Director of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra, and his daughter Emily. Daughter Jenny, a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and Carnegie Mellon University, is a member of the violin section of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

TINA D. STUMP

MEZZO-SOPRANO

Tina D. Stump is a versatile mezzo-soprano with a repertoire that runs the gamut from opera to jazz. Last seen as Motormouth Maybelle in the Beck Center production of *Hairspray*, she is thrilled to make her Holiday Pops debut with the Akron Symphony Orchestra. Local theatre patrons may remember her as Rosa in *Respect* at the Hanna Theatre or Power Woman from *Menopause the Musical*, which ran for two years at Playhouse Square's 14th Street Theatre. Additional Cleveland



metropolitan area performances include Sister Sally in *Amen Corner* (Cleveland Playhouse), Ally in *Unbeatable* (Westfield Theatre), Lisa in *A New Brain* (Beck Center Theatre), Domina in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Cain Park), Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* (Beck Center Theatre), Asaka in *Once on This Island* (Cain Park), and the Witch in *Into the Woods* (Cain Park). Tina originated the role of Pontius Pilate's wife in the premiere of *The Gospel According to Broadway* at the Hackney Empire Theatre (London, England). As a member of the cast of *Glories of Gospel*, she has performed across the United States, in Stockholm, Sweden and Panevezys, Lithuania. Presently, she is a member of Project Act's Reading Company, a featured soloist with Pastor Ron Williams and the Voices of Koinonia and a member of the P.K. Jones Ensemble. Additional credits: *A. . . My Name Will Always be Alice*, *Company*, *Children of Eden*, *Man of La Mancha* (Cleveland Opera), *The Wiz*, *Show Boat*, *Puttin' on the Ritz*, and *School House Rock, Live!* (Ohio premiere).

Leon Bibb

NARRATOR



Leon Bibb has been delivering the news since he was 11 years old. Then, he was a paper boy for Cleveland's newspaper. He is co-anchor of Live On Five and previously a co-anchor on the weekend edition of NewsChannel5 at 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. He is also narrator of *Your Hometown*, short programs about the people and renaissance of the Northeast Ohio community.

Leon, a veteran journalist and broadcaster, worked at WKYC-TV 3, Cleveland's NBC affiliate. He held several positions there after joining the station in 1979, including news anchor and general assignment reporter. Prior to his work there, Leon worked as a weekday anchor and reporter for WCMH in Columbus and as a news reporter at WTOL in Toledo. He began his journalism career as a news reporter for *The Plain Dealer*.

Robert Taylor, a sixth-grade teacher, was the first person to steer Leon's career path toward journalism. "He saw something in me, and advised me to go into a profession where I could write. 'It is a gift,' the teacher advised. 'Leon, use your gift.'" Leon became the first African-American anchor in the state of Ohio and the rest, as they say, is journalism history.

Leon has a passion for journalism. His unique talent for storytelling has made him one of the most respected journalists and anchors in our community. Bibb is a five-time Emmy award winner and





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has also won awards of excellence from the Cleveland Press Club and Cleveland State University and the Radio-TV Council. He has many feathers in his cap for nationally covered stories, such as The Persian Gulf War, an interview with President Bush at the Bush White House and Neil Armstrong's first interview 10 years after his historic walk on the moon.

Bibb is a member of the following Halls of Fame: Broadcaster's Hall of Fame, Glenville High School Hall of Fame, Bowling Green State University School of Communications Hall of Fame, Cleveland Press Club Distinguished Journalist award, Sigma Delta Chi Hall of Fame, Associated Press Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and the Cleveland Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

He received several *Excellence in Journalism* Awards from the Cleveland Press Club and was recognized with the Distinguished Journalist Award from the Cleveland Chapter of the Society for Professional Journalists. He also has received an award from his alma mater, Glenville High School. Leon, an Army veteran, received a Bronze Star Medal for his service in Vietnam.

During his leisure, Leon continues honing his craft as a wordsmith. He has written several short stories and poems, many of which have been published. He enjoys reading *Time*, *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire* and *American Heritage*. Leon also has a passion for audio books and has appeared in several theater productions, the latest being "Love Letters," at the Karamu House, a local African-American theater. He loves theater and vintage Hollywood classics and quotes scenes from them in many of his speeches. He is a fan of all types of music and has served as the narrator for the world-renowned Cleveland Symphony Orchestra reciting "A Lincoln Portrait."

Leon is a graduate of Bowling Green State University. He lives with his wife, Marguerite, in Shaker Heights. His daughters, Jennifer and Alison, are grown. In 1996 Governor George Voinovich appointed him to the Board of Trustees at Bowling Green State University where he is chairman of the Board. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

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