



# Brian Worsdale, artistic director



Brian Worsdale is both the artistic director and conductor of the Lesbian & Gay Big Apple Corps Symphonic Band. He has served in these leadership roles for six years, and his affiliation with the band began more than two decades ago. Under his baton, critics have recognized Worsdale for his innovative programming and his work on the podium. Recent New York City performances with the ensemble include Carnegie Hall and Symphony Space.

Worsdale also lends his talents to the Lesbian and Gay Band Association (LGBA) as a conductor and performer. He attended his first conference in 2004, and in 2007, he was asked to conduct in St. Louis. Worsdale has conducted at these conferences for the past four years, and recently served as music director for the LGBA Inaugural Marching Band for President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., as well as artistic director for the most recent conference in Indianapolis.

An award-winning conductor, instrumentalist, and educator, Worsdale has been working with bands and orchestras since 1994.

He is the founder of the award-winning ISO Symphonic Band in New York City. This ensemble is part of the InterSchool Orchestras of New York, and is the premiere symphonic wind ensemble for students in the metropolitan area.

Worsdale is the artistic director and conductor of the French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts in Delaware County, New York. There he leads the Symphonic Orchestra and various musical productions while overseeing one of the most comprehensive performing arts programs in the United States. In 2007, he welcomed Jamie Bernstein Thomas to French Woods when this program celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *West Side Story*.

He is on the conducting faculty of the Third Street Music School Settlement. There he serves as director of the Wednesday Wind Symphony, Concert Band, and Big Band.

Other conducting engagements include adjunct faculty for Wagner College Theater and conductor for Snug Harbor Cultural Center. There he led performances of *Sweeney Todd*, *Camelot*, and *Oliver!* His love of musical theater brought him to the attention of the Staten Island Symphony, where he helped produce, stage direct, and prepare performances of *My Fair Lady*, *Richard Rodgers Centennial Celebration*, and *A Night on Broadway*.

He has worked with a great variety of artists, including members of the New York Philharmonic, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Glenn Egner, Marcus Rojas, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Jamie Bernstein, Thomas Mark Gould, Gary Burton, among others. In 2010 he served as assistant conductor for the Honor Orchestra of America under the tutelage of Anthony Maiello who he now studies with. In 2011, he will return to the Honor Orchestra to serve as assistant conductor to Larry Livingston.

Worsdale has appeared as guest conductor with a variety of ensembles and at district/county music festivals throughout the USA and abroad, including: Experience the Music (Sponsored by Bands of American) of Indianapolis, The Royal Spa Brass Band, City of Coventry Youth Orchestras (UK), The Kilkenny Youth Orchestra (Ireland), The Bergen Youth Orchestra (NJ), and The Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra.

His conducting studies began at the Manhattan School of Music Preparatory Division (now Pre-College Division) under the tutelage of Maestro Jonathan Strasser. It was there that Worsdale conducted performances of Strauss' *Serenade for Winds* at The Conrad Strasser Memorial Fund Concerts. He served as assistant conductor for the Pre-College Symphony, Philharmonic and Repertory Orchestras. Through ISO, Worsdale was also involved with the young conductor roundtables of The New York Philharmonic and worked with Riccardo Muti, Kurt Masur, Glen Dicterow, and Larry Tarlow.