

MERVON MEHTA
Executive Director, Performing Arts, The Royal Conservatory



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Mervon Mehta's career in the arts has seen him on both sides of the curtain. A student of the late Sanford Meisner, Mehta has performed as an actor in over 100 theatrical productions, including residencies at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, and two seasons at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. He was a founding member of the Neighborhood Group Theatre in New York City, and has appeared on the stages of the Court, Steppenwolf, and Apple Tree theatres in Chicago. He has made several appearances on television and in films.

In 1994, Mehta put his theatrical career on 'temporary' hold and joined the Ravinia Festival in Chicago as programmer for their pop concert series. In 1998, he became Director of Programming and added the title of Director of Production in 2001. Ravinia hosts the Chicago Symphony Orchestra each summer for 20 concerts and presents an international roster of artists in recital and chamber music concerts; a four-day jazz festival led by Ramsey Lewis; some of the biggest names in pop, blues, country, and cabaret; as well as a children's series, master classes, workshops, and the innovative Musica Viva world music series.

In February of 2002, Mehta was named the first Vice President of Programming and Education at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. Under his leadership, the Kimmel Center brought an array of talent across many genres of music to Philadelphia. Highlights include the Philadelphia debuts of world music artists Caetano Veloso, Mariza, and Ravi Shankar; the return to Philadelphia of great orchestras from Berlin, Vienna, Boston, Chicago, and New York; recitals by Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, and Renée Fleming; the Alvin Ailey, Garth Fagan, and Urban Tap dance companies; and a focus on jazz that has featured the biggest and brightest stars, including Oscar Peterson, Ornette Coleman, Wynton Marsalis, and a six-year, 30-concert relationship with Panamanian jazz pianist, Danilo Pérez.

Mehta still appears on stage frequently as a narrator of orchestral works. He has performed with the Munich and LA Philharmonics, the National Arts Center Orchestra, the Chicago and Houston

Symphonies, the Hungarian National Orchestra, the Gulbenkian Orchestra (Lisbon, Portugal), at the Festival de Radio France, and the Maggio Fiorentino (Florence, Italy), under the batons of Christoph Eschenbach, Lawrence Foster, and Zubin Mehta.

Since April of 2009, Mehta has been the Executive Director of Performing Arts for The Royal Conservatory. He oversaw the successful launch of Koerner Hall, The Conservatory's stunning 1,135-seat concert venue. He is responsible for programming Koerner Hall's successful series of classical, jazz, world music, and pop concerts, as well as overseeing all of the other performances and events throughout The Conservatory's home at the TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning. He was born in Vienna, Austria, and grew up in Montreal. He is the son of singer Carmen Mehta (a Royal Conservatory alumna) and conductor Zubin Mehta, and is married to Carey Suleiman, an arts marketing professional. They have a son named Zed.