

Musical Luminaries Glenn Dicterow and Karen Dreyfus to Join the Faculty of the USC Thornton School of Music

Selected News Clips



CHRIS LEE

Violinist Glenn Dicterow, who has served as concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic for 32 years, and his wife, Karen Dreyfus, an acclaimed violinist who teaches at the Manhattan School of Music, will join the faculty of the USC Thornton School of Music in fall 2013.

The New York Times Magazine

May 24, 2012

New York Philharmonic Concertmaster to Leave in 2014

By Daniel J. Wakin

Glenn Dicterow, the longest-serving concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, has decided to step down, the orchestra said on Thursday. Mr. Dicterow, 63, plans to leave following the 2013-14 season, after 34 years, and will become a professor of strings and chamber music at the Thornton School of Music, which is part of the University of Southern California. Mr. Dicterow will continue to perform as a soloist and chamber musician, the orchestra said.

Mr. Dicterow was 31 when he was appointed to the job by Zubin Mehta, then the music director, in 1980. He had made his debut as a soloist with the orchestra long before that, playing the Tchaikovsky concerto in 1967, at 18. Mr. Dicterow sat beneath four music directors: Mr. Mehta, Kurt Masur, Lorin Maazel and now Alan Gilbert.

As concertmaster, Mr. Dicterow has played solos with the orchestra in Central Park, at the White House and on television: a total of more than 200 appearances in concertos and other featured works. And then there are the solo violin moments in large orchestral works, like Strauss's "Heldenleben" (44 times), Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" (37) and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade" (33).

Mr. Dicterow's father, Harold Dicterow, was principal second violinist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic for 52 years. Glenn Dicterow was concertmaster of that orchestra before coming to New York. New York Philharmonic officials said plans had not yet been determined on choosing his successor.

Los Angeles Times

May 24, 2012

Glenn Dicterow leaving New York Philharmonic, joining USC faculty

By David Ng

Glenn Dicterow, concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic for more than 30 years, will be leaving the venerated orchestra and joining the faculty of the USC Thornton School of Music in Los Angeles.

Dicterow, 63, will begin his new job at USC in fall 2013, the school announced Thursday. The New York Philharmonic said he is planning to step down from his role as concertmaster at the end of the 2013-14 season.

During the overlapping period, Dicterow is expected to lead some master classes at USC on a part-time basis.

At USC, Dicterow will hold the Robert Mann Endowed Chair in Violin and Chamber Music, a position that was recently established.

Dicterow's wife, Karen Dreyfus, will also join the USC faculty. Dreyfus is a violist who has taught at the Manhattan School of Music, the Juilliard School and Mannes School of Music in New York.

Dicterow joined the New York Philharmonic as concertmaster in 1980. Before that, he was a violinist with the L.A. Philharmonic for close to 10 years during the 1970s, serving as associate concertmaster, second concertmaster and eventually rising to the position of concertmaster.

A Southern California native, Dicterow said in a recent phone interview that stepping down from the New York Philharmonic was "not an easy decision." But he said the USC offer was "a very attractive situation for us at this juncture in our lives."

Dicterow said that he and his wife will find a place to live in Southern California but will also keep a home in New York.

As a professor at USC, he said he will take private students and lead chamber groups and master classes.

Dicterow's father, Harold, was the principal of the second violin section of the L.A. Philharmonic for more than 50 years. The family lived in several different neighborhoods, including the Fairfax district, North Hollywood and Sherman Oaks, according to the younger Dicterow.

By the time he leaves the New York Philharmonic, Dicterow will have served as concertmaster for 34 years, longer than anyone else in the orchestra's history.

"It's been amazing run for all these years," he said. But "it's a very difficult job, a lot of traveling, a large repertoire.... I'm looking for a little slowing down at this stage and to give some of that knowledge back."



Glenn Dicterow and his wife, Karen Dreyfus.

CHRISTIAN STEINER

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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Long-Serving Philharmonic Figure Exiting

By Pia Catton

The New York Philharmonic's concertmaster will step down at the end of the 2013-14 season, the orchestra announced on Thursday.

Glenn Dicterow, a familiar face to Philharmonic patrons, will have served for 34 years by the time he departs, the longest tenure in the post at the Philharmonic. His next move will be to academia, as the Robert Mann Chair in Strings and Chamber Music at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. His replacement will be named later.

"I've enjoyed my time immensely," he said, adding that the chair was a rare opportunity that came at the right time.

During his time at the Philharmonic, Mr. Dicterow has seen four music directors: Zubin Mehta (who appointed Mr. Dicterow in 1980), followed by Kurt Masur, Lorin Maazel and Alan Gilbert.

The role of the concertmaster, who is also the orchestra's first violin, is both musical and ceremonial. In performance, he or she sets the tone and musical phrasing for the string section. The concertmaster also symbolically represents the full orchestra, which is traditionally exhibited with the handshake from the conductor. "It implies that you are shaking everyone's hand," said Mr. Dicterow.

Concertmasters also step into a leading role when a violin solo is called for, unless a soloist is featured. Mr. Dicterow himself has been frequently featured, as he will be this Saturday in Béla Bartók's Violin Concerto No. 1. "I've done the mainstream solos, so I sometimes choose music that is less well known," he said.

His new faculty position in Los Angeles is a return to his hometown. Mr. Dicterow made his solo debut at age 11 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where he later became concertmaster before coming to New York. His father, Harold Dicterow, was principal of the second violin section in that orchestra.

"I'm going back home, but I'm going to be bicoastal," he said, noting that he will continue to teach at the Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music.