



American Prize-winning conductor (2019-2020; Musical Theatre) **Michelle Perrin Blair** was honored to be selected as one of twelve conducting fellows for the 2018 International Women's Conducting Workshop in New York City. Blair's other recent honors include the Beahl and Irene H. Perrine Faculty Fellowship (2016), the PEO Scholar Award (2014), the Richard and Nancy Schissler Fellowship in Orchestral Conducting (2013), and the Bernard Osher Scholarship (Monteux School 2012). Blair currently serves as Conductor and Operations Manager of Durward Contemporary Chamber Music Ensemble (Coralville, Iowa) and works as a freelance musician in the DFW area.

Blair is in demand as a guest conductor and clinician, and she is well known for her work with educational ensembles, new music groups, and musical theatre companies. Formerly the Director of Orchestras and Assistant Professor of Music at Coe College (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), Blair brings a wealth of teaching experience to the podium. Blair makes regular appearances at the American Festival for the Arts (Houston, Texas) and the Metropolitan Orchestra Festival (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) and has served as Artistic Director for multiple youth orchestra programs across the country. Highlights from Blair's 2021-2022 tour include recording Durward's second album *Prophetic Revolutions* (anticipated release early 2022), performing *Rainbow Body* in collaboration with composer Chris Theofanidis (Houston, Texas, July 2021), and her upcoming directorship of *Titanic* with Revival Theatre Company (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) in February 2022.

Blair holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Houston Moores School of Music, where she studied orchestral conducting with Maestro Franz Anton Krager and served as Assistant Director of the AURA Contemporary Ensemble under Dr. Rob Smith for three years. Blair earned her Master of Music degree in conducting from the University of Texas at Arlington under the tutelage of her lifelong mentor, Dr. Clifton Evans. An active violinist, she holds a Bachelor of Music degree in violin performance from Southwestern University, and Blair studied violin under Andrzej Grabiec, Martha Walvoord, Eri Lee Lam, and Rodica Gonzalez. Off the podium, Blair enjoys cooking, reading, traveling, and spending time outdoors. Blair lives in Dallas, Texas, with her husband, Aaron, and daughter, Johanna.