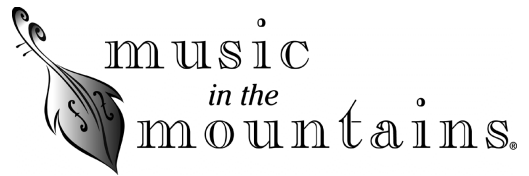


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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: Carl Topilow, Pops Night conductor

Colorful conductor Carl Topilow is renowned worldwide for his versatility, whether he is holding a conductor's baton or his trademark red clarinet. Known as a multi-talented virtuoso, he is equally at home in classical and popular music both as conductor and instrumentalist.

Topilow founded the Cleveland Pops Orchestra 14 years ago and continues to conduct its performances of light classical, swing, jazz, Broadway, Dixieland and Klezmer music, a distinctive genre derived from Jewish troubadours in Eastern Europe. His unique approach to pops programming includes audience involvement and true showmanship.

A firm believer in bringing up the next generation of musicians, Topilow also is conductor and director of the orchestral program at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Currently in his 28th year as conductor of the Institute's orchestras, Topilow also heads its Master's program in orchestral conducting. Graduates of this program can be found as maestros with several leading orchestras.

Topilow is celebrating his 32nd year as music director and conductor of the National Repertory Orchestra, a summer music festival based in Breckenridge, Colo. During his tenure there, he has assisted in training talented young musicians and conductors for positions in symphonic orchestras in the U.S. and abroad.

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

He was educated at the Manhattan School of Music and began his professional career as Exxon Arts Endowment Conductor of the Denver Symphony Orchestra.

Carl Topilow takes the podium in Pops Night concerts at Durango Mountain Resort July 21.

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NOTE: Photo and text available in Media Center at www.musicinthemountains.com