

THOMAS WILKINS is music director of the Omaha Symphony, resident conductor of the Detroit Symphony and principal guest conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. Past positions have included resident conductor of the Florida Orchestra and associate conductor of the Richmond Symphony. He served on the music faculties of North Park University in Chicago, the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

Wilkins has been a guest conductor with orchestras throughout the United States, including the Cleveland, Philadelphia and Louisville Orchestras, the Dallas, Baltimore, Houston, Grand Rapids, Indianapolis, San Antonio, Oregon and National Symphonies and the Buffalo Philharmonic.

As resident conductor of the Detroit Symphony, he leads the orchestra in a variety of programs, including Classical, Special Events, Pops, Young People's and educational concerts. The orchestra has awarded him its Classical Roots Musical Achievement Award.

Wilkins brings energy and commitment to audiences of all ages. The Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators named him 1998 Friend of the Arts for his significant contribution to the children of Tampa Bay.

A native of Norfolk, VA, Wilkins earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music in 1978, where he returns each summer to serve as orchestral conductor for its performing-arts camp. He was awarded a Master of Music degree in Orchestral Conducting from Boston's New England Conservatory of Music in 1982. Wilkins and his wife, Sheri-Lee, have twin daughters, Nicole and Erica.